



Robert LaVigne

May 17, 1937 - November 5, 2021

Robert “Jerry” LaVigne passed away on November 5th, 2021, with his wife, Ruth, at his side. He was 84 years old.

Born and raised in Iron Mountain, he graduated Class of 1956. He then served in the United States Air Force and returned to be with the Iron Mountain Police Department. Jerry was the owner of Rudy’s Body Shop until retiring.

Jerry loved the outdoors, going to camp, fishing and hunting. He also played golf, played pool and was a jokester. He was a man to be admired; he taught and led by example. He was loyal, loving, and giving.

He is deeply missed by his loving wife of sixty years, Ruth (Gustafson) Lavigne; children, Renee LaVigne and Gerald LaVigne; his brothers, Hector (Shirley) LaVigne, Patrick (Beth) LaVigne; his sister, Phyllis Wartick; nieces, nephews, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Laura and Albert LaVigne; sister, Mary Ann Hart; and in-laws, Evelyn and Wallace Gustafson.

A special thank you to Beth LaVigne.

Donations in Jerry's memory may be made to:

High Impact Outdoors

PO Box 414

Powers, MI 49874

Phone 906-282-0795

<https://highimpactoutdoors.org/donate/>

All funds will be used to take individuals hunting who cannot go hunting alone due to illness or a disability.

There are no services planned at this time.

Condolences to the family of Robert "Jerry" LaVigne may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

TL

“ Dear Ruth and Renee , I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was always so nice to me when I would come pick you up, Renee, when we were in high school. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Tami L. - November 17, 2021 at 02:20 PM

MT

“ My sincere condolences go out to Ruth, Renee and Gerald and family. I was introduced to Ruth and Jerry while living in Colorado Springs, Co. through my cousin Ken who knew they had relocated to Colorado. My family and Ruth & Jerry became friends and spent many an afternoon and day trips exploring the area surrounding Colorado Springs and Woodland Park. Jerry and I would take out on our own exploring as much of the Colorado back country as we could, enjoying every minute of it. Jerry was a “ hoot “! He was a good friend and we shared stories and experience’s in our lives. As often happens, regrettably, when Jerry and Ruthie moved away from Colorado, we lost touch with one another. I will miss Jerry. We will always have memories to keep close.

Mark Tauber - November 09, 2021 at 04:39 PM

SP

“ Oh no. My Deepest Sympathies to Ruth and family. RIP Jerry. Susie Piatti



Susie Piatti - November 08, 2021 at 06:20 PM

KS

“ When I moved up here and got a job at Rudy's Body Shop in 1976 Jerry and I connected in friendship right away. He wasn't just a boss but a real friend. We would do things together in the outdoors and he really acclimated me to the U.P..

In the fall that first year before the start of bird season, we would talk and compare hunting pheasant and quail as opposed to partridge. Now Jerry and I very often rode together for work so on opening day I rode with Jerry and he said bring your shotgun because after work we would go road hunting. In the morning of opening day Jerry drove by Badwater and took the upper cutoff. As we slowly rode I said there is a partridge right by the road. Jerry said go get him...I said I'll walk and flush him...Jerry said no "ground pound him". I didn't expect that but though if he says so...I'll do it. Well I shot it and when I went get it, the bird was stuck on a stick. I looked back at Jerry and he was laughing so hard, I thought he was gonna fall out of the truck.

Jerry said, I think somebody did that on purpose!! I said, yes you're right...but I wonder who that somebody was.

Over the years since then he and I often laughed about my first partridge.

I have so many great memories of Jerry over the years, hunting together, many fishing trips to Canada, and just being a friend.

I messaged Renee this morning about something in my yard.

"We very seldom see Red Cardinals in our yard, years between sightings. This morning a big male Cardinal was in our yard.

Mythology and Indian beliefs are that the Cardinal is a symbolic statement that a friend who has passed, is alive and will never truly be gone if we keep them in our hearts."

Jerry will always be part of me. God Bless you my Friend!

Ken Pekarek Sr. - November 08, 2021 at 04:52 PM



My Deepest Condolences to the Entire Family !

Kathy Wartick - November 09, 2021 at 12:06 PM



I just recently found out about Jerry's passing. I'm so sorry for your family's loss, Ruthie. He was a sweet man. I remember he would pick a marigold out of mom's front flower planter and give to her. He was such a kidder. I enjoyed our breakfasts together with you both. I hope you are doing ok and your kids as well. Take care.

Kathleen Rankin Tauber Dropp - October 01, 2022 at 03:30 PM