



Rodney J.

May 5, 1952 - May 5, 2013

Rodney J. Ray, 61, of Kingsford, passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2013 at the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center in Iron Mountain, after a courageous twelve month battle with cancer. He was born on March 27, 1952 in Cook County, Illinois. the son of Joseph and Ethel (Paquin) Ray.

In 1970, prior to his high school graduation, Rodney entered the United States Army. He spent two years in Germany as a truck driver and Military Police officer. On Sept. 13, 1975 he married Michele Seronko of Kingsford. He received his GED in 1975. Rodney was employed for a couple of years at Grede Foundries. In the 1970's he received additional schooling and became an iron worker. He was a member of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, and Ornamental Ironworkers, working for several unions, including Union Local 8 in Wisconsin and Union Local 783 in Michigan, throughout his thirty year career.

Rodney loved the outdoors and his camp. He enjoyed spending time there with his two sons, daughters-in-law, two grandchildren, and his good friend, Tim Curran. He also enjoyed gardening, hunting, and making maple syrup at camp. He also took an interest in old tractors. Rodney was a very talented woodworker and spent many hours creating shelves, coat racks, and beautiful jewelry boxes. Rodney was proud, soft-spoken, and kind, and will be remembered as a gentleman.

He is survived by his dad Joseph Ray of Kingsford, two sons Adam (DeAnna) Ray of Kingsford and Darren (Jennifer) Ray of Hartford, WI, two brothers Alan Ray and Kevin Ray, both of Kingsford, two special grandchildren Devon Oslund Ray and Mikayla "Bugaboo" Ray, both of Kingsford, his ex-wife and friend Michele Ray of Iron Mountain , his sister-in-law Carrie Ray of Kingsford , brother-in-law Ken Seronko of Hoffman Estates, IL, two special friends Pam Wittock and Kristen Punzel, and aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Rodney was preceded in death by his mom Ethel (Paquin) Ray and his brother Jeffrey Ray, both in 2000.

A celebration of Rodney's life will be held on Friday at Bob and Jerry's Bar starting at 4pm.

The family would like to say a special thank you to all the caring medical staff at the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center .

Condolences to the family of Rodney J. Ray can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 10. 4:00 PM (CT)

Bob and Jerry's Bar
1145 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

MF

“ I am so sorry for your loss of dear Rodney.He was so sweet and I knew him from high school.We all used to go to the lake together and just be kids.RODNEY WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED BY MANY ..SUCH SAD SAD NEWS.MY PRAYERS TO HIS FAMILY.

maureen julian pasten - buckeye, AZ - friend - May 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dear Ray family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.
We're very sorry for your loss.

Rachael Sabotta - Appleton, WI - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ We will miss all our good times spent at the lake with you.You will always be rotten Rodney to me and you know why ha ha.But yes our good friend you will be missed. Duke & Alice 5-9-13

Duke & Alice Messner - Crystal Falls, MI - Good Friends - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ I'll miss our time around the fire at camp... with the smoke following you everywhere. Duke saved his best wood for you. The projects that we all did over the years that always ended with smiles and laughs (and after a hangover). Our trips to the porkies and all the places we can no longer visit.

Most of all I'll miss your friendship and the fact that you were always around to talk about nothing in particular, but it was always somehow great when we did.

You will be missed. Rest easy my friend.

Fred Messner - Gilbert , AZ - Long time friend - May 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CY

“ I will always love and remember Rodney Ray, he was like my 2nd father, when Darren and I were young he was always there for us anywhere at anytime, to help us with any problem , or to keep us in line and to stop us from doing something, he knew we shouldn't do . Over the years he has taught me so much about life and friendship, and that will always be with me. Rodney thank you, and I will always love you and remember you. But I will miss you

Chris Tobey - kingsford , MI - Friends dad for over 20 years - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Forever with the angels, always in our hearts... Rest in Peace.

Marcie Lucas - Felch, MI - Friend - May 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ *My deepest sympathy to Uncle Joe, cousins Kevin and Alan and to all who knew and loved him. He was a joy to be around, kind, understanding, and a sweet, fun guy. I was proud to call him my cousin and I know how deeply Uncle Joe and everyone will miss him. My prayers are with the family, friends, and Michelle who loved him always.*

Holly McCarthy-Biolo - Kevil, KY - First Cousin - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ *Ken and I are truly sorry for your loss. He was a good cousin and always gave kisses when I would see him. He will be missed.*

Faye - Williston , ND - cousin - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *To the Family,
All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Rodney will truly be missed.*

Don and Tina Struebing - Gulfport, MS - Friend - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Adam, Darren, Joe, Michele and families,

Heartfelt sympathies to Rodney's family. You guys have always been a very special part of our lives and we're here for you always. There are way too many memories to pick one to share, but etched in our hearts forever are the good times we had: "younger years" when we enjoyed our youth and never let the grass grow under our feet, the "smelt fry" that Joe and Ethel had each spring, the addition of your loving children. Our many escapades will live on in Rodney's memory. Love you all....

Carla & Mike

Carla & Mike Hiatt - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Darren,

Betsy and I would like to express our sincere condolences to you and your family. Remember the good times; your Dad would like that. Hopefully see you soon. Mark Z

Mark & Betsy Zelinski - Appleton, WI - Friends of Darren & Jen - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM