



## Roy LaVarnway

December 25, 1930 - December 25, 2010

Roy J. LaVarnway, 80, of 245 Roseland in Kingsford, died Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010, at ManorCare Health Services in Kingsford.

He was born Oct. 24, 1930, in Iron Mountain, son of the late Harold and Alice (Quinn) LaVarnway. Roy graduated from Kingsford High School in 1948 and lived in the area for most of his life.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of the American Legion Post 363 in Kingsford.

He married Noleen Bratton on June 14, 1952, at American Martyrs Catholic Church. Roy was self-employed as a barber and ran his business for more than 30 years, retiring in 1992.

He was a member of American Martyrs Church and served as an usher. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting, walleye fishing, and spending time at camp. Roy was a Packer backer and a life-long Chicago Cubs fan. He also was a Kingsford Flivver fan and enjoyed attending his grandchildren's sporting and extra-curricular events.

Roy is survived by his wife of 58 years, Noleen; a son, Michael (Heather) LaVarnway of Kingsford; a daughter, Laurie Johnson of Iron Mountain; a

daughter-in-law, Jodi LaVarnway of Iron Mountain; seven grandchildren, Brooke and Ashlee Johnson, Jamie LaVarnway, and Justin, Ethan, Nolan and Allison LaVarnway; a great-grandson, Collin Punzel; a sister, Phyllis (Bob) DiBiase of Kenosha, Wis.; two brothers-in-law, Virgil Bratton and Clayton Clement; two sisters-in-law, Faye LaVarnway and Irene Bratton and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, David LaVarnway; a son-in-law, Tom Johnson; a brother, Jim LaVarnway; two sisters, Verna and Gladys; and two brothers-in-law, Sherman Bratton and Walter Sloop.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Dickinson County Memorial Gardens.

The American Legion Post 363 will conduct military graveside honors.

Pallbearers will be George Groeneveld, Duane and Dale Blagec, Clark Linn, Dan Cahee and Scott Celello.

Honorary pallbearers will be Gerald Taff and Ray Racette.

Condolences to the family of Roy J. LaVarnway can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

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



# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **28**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

American Martyrs Catholic Church  
908 W. Sagola Ave.  
Kingsford, MI 49802

# Tribute Wall

CG

“ Noleen, Mike and Laurie,

*I have many memories of time spent with you, and Roy, in Iron Mountain. i just want to say I am so sorry for your loss. Roy was a great man and I know my Grandma Verna was very fond of him.*

*-Claire Smith*

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**Claire Smith - Madison, WI - Grand-niece - March 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

DS

“ Hello. I'm sorry to hear about your dad. I remember playing Legion ball with Mike and your dad was always a great man to be around. Sorry it took so long to express my sympathy. I hope things are going well and don't forget the good memories.

*Sincerely*

*Don VanOss*

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**Don VanOss - Winneconne, WI - Friend of son - February 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

AC

“ To Roy's family,

*I am so sorry for your loss. When my twin girls were little, I took them for hair cuts from Roy. He was so good with children and they loved going to his barbershop. They got a ride on the chair as he spun it around and he always had a treat for them afterward. He knew my mother's family and told me stories of fishing with my uncle Bill Worley when they were young. Later when I taught at Woodland Elementary School, I would see him when he came for Veterans programs or to see Jamie in school programs. He always had a smile on his face. I remember how proud he was to take part in military functions. He was a very special man and loved his family very much. He will live on in the many special memories you have of happy times together.*

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**Alice (Ouimette) Reed - Iron Mountain, MI - former customer** - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Noleen - I was so very sorry to learn of Roy's death. Irene had told me he was not doing well. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Jean Puckett

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**Jean Puckett - Casper, WY - Sister of Irene Bratton** - January 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Laurie, We are sorry to hear that Roy has passed he was a fine man with a good heart, he will be missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Ted and Sylvia Paquin.

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**Ted Paquin - Friend** - December 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Noleen, Laurie, Mike and family,

*Our dearest memories of Roy are left by those whom he touched in the community and how much he loves his family. Our prayer is that these memories last for those he left behind here; and just long enough till we see him again. We share your sadness in the loss of a father during the holidays, but share the joy in his legacy that lives on. We will continue to pray for healing, understanding and peace in each of your hearts.*

*God Bless!!*

*Brian, Joni, Olivia and Alec Deyaert*

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**Brian Deyaert - New Market, MD - Friend of family** - December 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Noleen, Laurie, Mike and family,

*We are so sorry. Our prayers are with all of you during this painful time. We will always remember Roy with a warm handshake and sweet smile at church every Sunday. He was a fine gentleman who was a friend to many.*

*Trust in God to help get you through this difficult period.*

*Our deepest sympathy and love,*

*Denny and Deb*

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**Denny and Deb Chartier - Peoria, AZ - friends of the family** - December 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Noleen, and family,  
What can we say. Roy was a great guy, always ready to have a picture taken. I think half of our wedding pictures were of Roy (more of him than the bride). We will always treasure the fond memories of Roy. May you also find comfort in the good times you had with him over the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you now and always.  
Love Trina & Paul*

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**Trina and Paul Meyer - Green Bay, WI - Cousin - December 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM**

RC

“ *NOLEEN & FAMILY;  
  
OUR PRAYS ARE WITH YOUSE, I'M SURE ROY IS UP IN HEAVEN WITH MY  
  
DAD AND BROTHER MAKING SURE THEY HAVE GOOD HAIR CUTS.  
  
GOD BLESS YOU AND ALL YOUR FAMLIIY.  
  
RAY AND NANCY*

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**RAY & NANCY POHLSON - ocala, FL - cousin - December 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM**

TN

“ Noleen, Laurie and Mike.

*God bless you Roy, you were the greatest neighbor a young kid could ask for. He was blessed in so many ways and shared those blessings with all of us. Although my mom never let Roy cut my hair she would allow me to visit our fine neighbor so he could tease and pester me. I loved it. Never will I forget his love for springer spaniels, his little baseball travels to watch Mike and my brother Nick play ball. Oh those huge brook trout he would catch, I still have pictures of those monsters. Roy even forgave me when I put a basketball through his garage door window. Roy you were loved and surely will be missed.*

*Todd Gayan*

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**todd gayan - Sand Lake, MI - childhood neighbor** - December 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Mike, Heather and family,

*Sorry to hear about your dad. Sounded like he was a wonderful man by reading some of the other posts. Please know that we are thinking of your family and praying for all of you during this difficult time.*

*Nathan and Ashley Anderson*

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**Nathan & Ashley Anderson - Escanaba, MI** - December 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dear Noleen: I was saddened to learn today of Roy's passing. My deepest condolences to you and your family. Living directly across the alley from each other in Breitung, he was a close boyhood friend throughout our school years in Roosevelt, Garden Village, and Kingsford High School. We enjoyed so many of the same things: boyhood sports, swimming in the Menominee, the Kingsford Flivvers, and the KHS Class of 1948. Roy, and his enthusiasm and positive outlook, will be greatly missed.

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**Mel "Punky" Kangas - Anacortes, WA - Friend** - December 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Noleen and family,  
Sorry to hear about the passing of Roy. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of your family during this very difficult time.  
Dina  
Former student/dishwasher at KHS

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**Dina Perrault (Degenaer) - Green Bay, WI - former student/dishwasher at KHS** -  
December 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ We all remember Roy's forever present smile and his good humor. As I've learned with my dad's passing this year, he isn't gone, he's just waiting with his love and a smile. You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Brian & Patti Sparapani and girls - relative** - December 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Mike and family*

*So sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers*

*Keith Carlson and family*

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**Keith Carlson - Friend** - December 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Dear Noleen and Family,*

*Cathie and I are so sorry to hear the news of Roy's passing. He will be dearly missed by all that knew him. Roy is no longer with us on this world but he will forever be in our hearts. Our lives have truly been richer for having been blessed with being his friend. You have our prayers and deepest condolences in your time of loss.*

*Ray & Cathie Racette*

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**Ray Racette - Friend** - December 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Dear Noleen, Laurie & Family:*

*So sorry to hear of your loss. I understand the pain of loss at a holiday, and you have my sympathies.*

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**Renee Swanson** - December 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM