



Thomas I. Bates

August 27, 1939 - November 22, 2019

Thomas I. Bates, 80, of Kingsford Heights, passed away on November 22, 2019.

Tom was born on August 27, 1939 in Houghton, Michigan, son of the late George and Iris (Hanson) Bates. He has been a resident of Kingsford Heights his entire life and was a 1957 graduate of Kingsford High School.

After his graduation, Tom joined the United States Air Force. He served with the Air Force Military Police from 1959 until his honorable discharge in 1962. After his discharge from the Air Force, Tom worked as a bricklayer and then worked for Lakeshore Inc. He spent his remaining work years with the Niagara Paper Company, retiring in 1998.

Tom married Carol Hicks on July 6, 1963 at the First United Methodist Church in Iron Mountain. Tom has been a lifelong member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Over the years, he had been active with Dickinson Area Hockey Assoc. (DAHA). He worked countless hours icing the rinks, supporting fund raisers and working many extra hours at the mill to take time off to travel with his boys while they played hockey.

Tom participated in many sports over the years; baseball, softball, bowling and golf. He was a forty year member of Pine Grove Country Club. Tom loved golf and was a familiar face on area golf courses and local golf events.

Tom was also a member of the Kiwanis Ski Club beginning as a ski jumper himself and later as annual worker and supporter of the club. In the off-season, he enjoyed his time playing cards with fellow members.

Tom was an avid reader and loved history. He was a true Michigander rooting for his favorite teams the Detroit Lions, Tigers and Red Wings. He was a devoted Kingsford Flivver fan and even traveled to the out-of-town games. These later years he enjoyed spending time at his camp and visiting the Linn camp.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, Carol; children, Paula (Doug) Forstrom of Kingsford, Shari (Troy) Herout of Hugo, MN, Drew (Kathy) Bates of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and David (Kirstin Chapman) Bates of Kimberly, WI; eight grandchildren, Sarah (Josh) Schuiteman, Gunnar Forstrom, Lauren and Gretchen Herout, Brittany and Brett Bates, Grant and Morgan Bates.

Visitation will be on Saturday, November 30th from 9:30 until 11:30am at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will follow at 11:30 am at the church. and Rev. Paul Strom will officiate followed by a luncheon. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Condolences to the family of Thomas Bates may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **30**. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Funeral Service

NOV **30**. 11:30 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

LM

“ *Linda and George Martinson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas I. Bates.*



Linda and George Martinson - November 29, 2019 at 10:30 AM

SC

“ *Our sympathy to Tom's family. He was a fun coworker and golf buddy for many years. He could always put a smile on your face even on a sad occasion. Shine & Sally Champeau*

Sally Champeau - November 28, 2019 at 10:10 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Thomas I. Bates.*



November 26, 2019 at 11:10 PM

WG

“ Carol: You and your family have my deepest sympathy.. My brother John, was in school at Westwood and Garden Vilage and would have been Tom's classmate in 1957, but was in Seminary. At the 50th class reunion, Tom read John's name with a sad heart, as my brother had died 4 years earlier....they, and the Heights boys, Willmans, Manders, Pirlots etc. were the best of friends....I got to play golf with Tom in the Flivver Open a couple of years and had a great time. Bill Groleau KHS Class of '61.

William Groleau - November 26, 2019 at 05:17 PM

TK

So sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Tami Alsteen Kuder - November 27, 2019 at 11:46 PM

LB

“ In knowing T. Bates for over 70 years, no one else comes close in raising being one-of-a-kind to an art form like he did. Great guy - going to miss my good friend.

Lyle Boucher - November 26, 2019 at 01:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas I. Bates.



November 25, 2019 at 07:17 PM

KO

“ To the Family of Tom Bates, my deepest sympathy to all of you. I worked with Tom at the Niagara mill for a long time. Golfed a couple times with him and he helped me with my golf game many times. He was a kind and caring man always willing to help one in need. He will truly be missed. Today and every day will now be "Doctors, Lawyers and Tommy Bates Day" for my friend. Hit them far and hit them straight. Rest in peace my friend.

Kathy O'Connell - November 25, 2019 at 05:19 PM

MC

some good memories of T back in the hockey days RIP "MACK" sorry to see this

mike carlton - November 28, 2019 at 09:26 AM

JC

I will always think of our Monday some, and Best Ball at Pine Grove. Keep it in the short stuff T. Your partner. JON J. CARLSON

JON CARLSON - November 30, 2019 at 10:26 AM