



Wesley Hendrickson

January 9, 1936 - January 9, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Wesley D. Hendrickson, 73, of Iron Mountain, passed away on Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital.

He was born July 20, 1935, in Republic, son of the late Otto and Esther (Koski) Hendrickson. Wes graduated from Republic High School in 1953 and had continued training throughout his career.

He married Elaine Luoto on Sept. 7, 1957, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Republic. Wes began working for Hanna Mining Co. as a purchaser and eventually went on to become a safety engineer. He was transferred to National Steel Pellet Co. in Keewatin, Minn., in 1981, retiring in 1990 at which time he moved back to Iron Mountain.

Wes was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, the Dickinson County Pilots Association and the EAA. He had a love for flying from the time he was a young child and was extremely proud to be a licensed pilot for almost 40 years, as well as being the part owner of a 182 Cessna airplane.

Wes was an avid skier and a former member of the U.S. Ski Jumping Team. One of his proudest accomplishments was winning the Pine Mountain Ski Jumping Tournament in 1956. Each February, he looked forward to the Pine Mountain Ski Tournaments and the camaraderie of his "old" ski jumping

buddies.

He enjoyed going to camp with his dad and they spent many hours hunting and fishing together. Wes also enjoyed birds, traveling, camping, cooking and spending time with family, especially his grandchildren who knew him as "Boompa Whiskers".

Wes is survived by his beloved wife, Elaine; two sons, Duane (Leslie) Hendrickson of Park City, Utah, and Derwin Hendrickson of Iron Mountain; a daughter, Stacy (Butch) Schinderle of Iron Mountain; two brothers, Lester (Carolyn) Hendrickson of Mesa, Ariz. and Curtis (Susan) Hendrickson of Green Bay, Wis.; two brothers-in-law, Wilfred (Diane) Luoto of Livonia, Mich., and Dennis (Randi) Luoto of Edina, Minn.; two sisters-in-law, Patsy Hendrickson of Republic, and Alice Hendrickson of Scotia, N.Y.; four grandchildren, Hannah Hendrickson and Sophia, Dominic and Geno Schinderle; several nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Melvin and Kenneth, a sister-in-law, Kathy Hendrickson and his father and mother-in-law, Wilfred and Martha Luoto.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Central time) at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will follow at 4 p.m. at the church. Rev. Stephen Cowen will officiate.

Burial will be in Republic Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Rudi Maki, Willie Erickson, Ron Christesen, Jim Riverside, Marvin Koski and Randy Kurin.

Honorary pallbearers will be John Perla, Bob Hill and Louie Cini.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or the Dickinson County Pilots Association.

Condolences to the family of Wesley Hendrickson may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Elaine and Family, Beth and I would like to offer our condolences at the passing of Wes. We will always remember him in our hearts especially when entering the landing pattern. Wes would give us a quick call on his handheld radio and make that familiar call to 3481 foxtrot "Hey Bill; How's she's running for you? She sounds great from here."

Bill and Beth Schaefer - February 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ My condolences to the all of the Hendrickson family on the loss of your husband and dad.
My father Joe Mayrand of Ishpeming ski jumped with Wes during their ski jumping years. I skied with Duane at both Northern Michigan and the Pine Mountain Ski Team. During the years of Duane's and my skiing my dad and I would come to Pine Mountain for the jumping tournament. Wes and my dad would spend some time watching the tournament and talking old times together. I know they both enjoyed it. Joe has passed also so I know the loss you are feeling at this time. Again I would like to extend my deepest sympathy.

Regards,

Dave Mayrand

Dave Mayrand - January 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Dear Auntie Elaine and Cousins Stace, Derwin and Duane, I heard about Uncle Wesley's passing just a few hours after it occurred, but I still somehow haven't shaken the shock. I think it's true, his big personality and big voice epitomized so much life that it's hard to imagine him fallible to death. When I was talking to my dad about Wesley was when both of our voices cracked, my dad loved Wes so much (Wes stepped in as a sort of "father figure" when Grandpa died so young) and it's hard to see my dad so affected too...

The nature of life is such that it does go on, even when it seem like it shouldn't. There will be a time when you are smiling again. I hope that you take comfort in knowing that Uncle Wesley had such an interesting and rich life, and thanks to all of you that he was such a loved man when he died...and he knew that too.

I love you and am thinking of you constantly, Ellie

Ellie Luoto - January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Elaine,
I would like to express my condolences to you and your family on the passing of Wesley. We were friends in our ski jumping days, (years ago) and enjoyed many fun times together. It was a great life, being 17 and nothing as important to us than ski jumping.

You are in my thoughts and prayers as you begin yet another phase of life without Wesley.

Joseph Giguere/Ishpeming, MI. & Grand Rapids, MI.

Joseph Giguere - January 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Dear Elaine and Family, I just read Wes'es obit in The Marquette Mining Journal. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. I remember him as a fun loving guy and know he was a good friend to Dave....Dave loved getting together with all the former jumpers at the ski tournament and relive the great times they had together. Dave died four years ago.. it's been a journey for me, but I'm doing ok and life is good again. Family and friends continue to be a huge support. Thinking of you Elaine, and my sympathy to you and your family.
Love, Kay Freeman

Kay Freeman - January 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ Elaine, I was sorry to hear of Wesley's passing. I will always remember the good times we had working at the Groveland Mine and the time we had together camping. He will be greatly missed.

Wayne Dailey - January 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Elaine and family, sorry to here about Wes. He was a good friend to all who kmew him. Will miss him and remember all the good times, especially when we were flying our airplanes. Now when I look up and see a airplane i will remember him. Brian Oikarinen

Brian Oikarinen - January 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Elaine and family, We am so sorry to hear about Wes. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God comfort you in this time of need.
Tracy and the girls at Sunshine Travel and Tours

TRACY SCHULTZ - January 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ We were sorry to hear of Wesley's passing. Our thoughts are with you at this sad time. John&Myrna

John&Myrna Todd - January 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ It is with great saddness, hearing about Wesley's passing. If ever there was someone to look up to while growing up in Republic, it would have to be Wesley. Even though he was a bit older than me, he always showed great compassion whenever we would meet. I had many of the same interests, cars, skiing, birds. airplanes that Wes had. I always looked forward to visiting with Wes at Curt's camp during deer season, and cherished the time just shooting the bull with him. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. My deepest sympathy to Wes's family.

Clark Sullivan - January 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Stacy & Family,

I am sorry to hear about the loss of your father. If their is anything I can do (maybe just needing a friend) please let me know. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.
May God Bless you all. Darcy

Darcy Brown - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Stacy, I am sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this sad time.
Love, Michelle

Michelle Guldner - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ We were so sorry to learn of Wesley's passing. Sorry we can't be there at this time for the family, we are in Dade City, Fl. for the winter. We have good memories of him & he will be missed.
Sid & Joan

Sid & Joan Koski - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Stacy & family, we were so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Our prayers are with you & all of your family during this difficult time.
Nate, Kris, Jake & Lauren

Kris Czerwan - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Elaine, Stacy, Butch, Dominic, Geno, and my sweetheart Sophia, My thoughts are with you at this sad time. I know you were all loved by this wonderful man very much! God bless you!

Connie Johnson - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ My condolences to the Hendrickson Family. My brother Pete and I were Pete Koski's nephews and we used to spend our summers in Republic. We were closer to Lester's and Curtis' age but I remember Wes and my first ever motorcycle ride on Memo's old motorcycle.
God be with you and bless you at this time of loss.
Bill Johnson
Brandon, FL

Bill Johnson - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ I am so sorry that WES left us,I am a long time friend of the Hendrickson bunch and I knew Elaine from school in Republic.

James Voegtline - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dar and family, So sorry for your loss, Wes was quite a character. I think it goes with the name. Our thoughts are with you. It's tough to lose a guy like that.

xoxoxoxox

Dana, Rhea and Wes.

Dana Roads, Wesley and Rhea Cone - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ My sincere sympathy to the family. I carpoled and worked with Wes at Groveland many years ago. I am so sorry for your loss. Mary Baldrica/Henderson, NV.

Mary Baldrica - January 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ There's a saying that someone doesn't really die until we stop talking about him... While Wes is no longer with us physically, Wes is one who can live in our thoughts and hearts forever. All of us have favorite Wes stories, right? He had such a huge personality, it's a void hard to fill.

The best man at our wedding, Jordan, told me how lucky he was to have known Wes. I think we all are.

As we grieve his passing, let's remember - and celebrate - the good fellow he was. Keep telling those stories - that's what legends are made of.

Yes, Wes, nice backyard. See you on the slopes. xoxo Leslie

Leslie Hendrickson - January 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Elaine and family, We are so shocked and saddened by Wes's death. We are keeping you all in our prayers and thoughts. We pray that God gives you his grace and strength to face your grief and to heal during this sad time. Though Wes is no longer here with you, you know that he lives on in your memories till you are together again. Remember also, as you grieve here on earth, he is smiling down on you from his new home.

Alice and Gordy Reed - January 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM