



William J. Rice

June 4, 1935 - August 2, 2021

We are saddened to announce our husband and dad, William J. “Bill” Rice, passed away at the age of 86 on August 2, 2021. Bill was born on June 4, 1935, in Kingsford, MI, the son of Leo Sr. and Hazel (Vandehey) Rice.

Bill graduated from Kingsford High school in 1954 and was a lifelong resident of Kingsford. He married Dolores Massignan on April 23, 1955, at American Martyrs Catholic Church where he was a faithful parishioner. He was always ready to respond to whatever God sent his way. Bill and Dee celebrated 66 years of marriage in April.

The three things Bill valued most were his family, faith, and hard work. Never missing a special family occasion and a daily rosary were part of his routine. Bill was a good, honest man who always put his family first. He was self-made, who at the age of 15, built and operated a successful business, The Rice Juice Company. After turning the business over to his son, Larry, Bill could often still be found at the “Juice Plant.” He was a member of the United Commercial Travelers and the Knights of Columbus. Bill had a passion for sports and loved to watch the Packers and the Detroit Tigers.

In addition to his parents Leo Sr. and Hazel Rice, he was preceded in death by six brothers, James, Bob, Leo Jr., Bernard, Jack, and Melvin.

Surviving in addition to his wife Dolores Rice, are his four children: Cathrine

(Dan Germic) Rice of Kingsford, Sally (Jim) Skolasky of Kalamazoo, Larry (Laura) Rice of Kingsford, and Angela (Tom) Bal of De Pere; 8 grandchildren: Brianne (Michael Phillips) Johnson, Luke (Alyssa) Skolasky, Sara (Anthony) Pulcini, Lewis Rice, Lee Rice, Lauren Rice, Billie Dee Bal, and Rachel Bal; 3 great-grandchildren: Brexlie Phillips, Everett Skolasky, and Theo Pulcini. Bill also leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews.

Bill's love and impact on family and friends will live on forever in their hearts.

Visitation will be held 8:30 - 10:30 am Friday, August 13, 2021, at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 am at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Condolences to the family of William J. "Bill" Rice 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

AUG 13. 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

American Martyrs Church
908 W Sagola Ave
Kingsford, MI 49802-5336
(906) 774-0630

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Came upon a small book of poems, signed by William J. Rice. As a poet, I enjoyed his words very much. A poet, Indeed.

James D. Senetto

James D Senetto - May 03, 2023 at 09:28 AM

TV

“ Bill was the hardest working i ever met. Always fair and caring about about people. No matter what, you had to respect him. He always wanted 100% effort, nothing less. He was my first employer and i still remember my days at the Joice plant as the very best. Love you Bill

Todd Varda - August 14, 2021 at 10:26 PM

SC

“ Sanmina Corporation purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William J. Rice.



Sanmina Corporation - August 12, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William J. Rice.



August 11, 2021 at 07:34 PM

PP

“ We use to own the Pembine family restaurant and we loved to visit with Bill. My husband(Butch, who also passed away this year) would always say to Bill, " Moon Pie and a RC Cola", and Bill would get a kick out of that. Bill was a great guy!!

Pat Polzin - August 11, 2021 at 03:17 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of William J. Rice.



August 11, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of William J. Rice.



August 10, 2021 at 09:20 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of William J. Rice.



August 10, 2021 at 12:44 PM

DO

“ *Bill's Wife and Family.*

Sorry to hear of Bill's passing away. He was one of my favorite classmates and his wife Dolores (Massignan) Rice also one of my favorites. My Father moved our Family from Hermansville to Kingsford in the early forties one half block from Dolores's home. She became one of my playmates. Our KHS Class Of 1954 is becoming History. So many of us are gone but we got to live in a beautiful time in America. My hope is that we can pass it on to our Children and Grandchildren.

The business Bill built for his family is awesome. I remember him starting the Rice's Home Juice Company when he was still in High School. His Father Leo was my favorite school bus driver when I lived North of Iron Mountain in Twin Falls and he drove me and my Brothers and Sisters to Quinnesec Grade School and later to Kingsford High School.

Douglas St. Onge

DOUGLAS ST. ONGE - August 09, 2021 at 01:09 PM

JH

“ *Laura, Larry and family....So sorry to read of your loss....My deepest sympathy to you and your family.....Jackie Hallman*

Jackie Hallman - August 07, 2021 at 03:01 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William J. Rice.*



August 05, 2021 at 10:06 PM