



David L. Riley

August 2, 1948 - February 22, 2020

FAITHORN- David L. Riley age 71 of Faithorn, passed away Saturday, February 22, 2020 at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, MI.

He was born on August 2, 1948 in Norway, the son of the late Lynn and Helen (Knapp) Riley.

David graduated from Norway High School in 1966 and went on to Michigan Tech for a year and a half.

He served his country in the US Army during the Vietnam Era, and was honorably discharged in 1971.

David married his high school sweetheart Mary Lou Tomososki on June 1, 1968 in St. Barbara's Church in Vulcan.

He worked for his father's logging company Riley Forest Products and started at Kiser Johnson in 1979 as a millwright, through the years became a mechanical foremen/senior technical advisor. He loved his work and continued to work all over the United States driving to job sites up until his death.

David enjoyed music like Patsy Cline, watching his deer, birds, turkeys, squirrels and other wildlife surrounding his property. He enjoyed helping others, and gave his heart and soul to his children and grandchildren, they made his life complete. He was always available to his children and grandchildren when anyone needed help fixing things, there was nothing David could not fix. He especially loved his great grandchildren Parker and Bronson Dessellier. No matter how he was feeling, they always put a smile on his face.

In his spare time, he enjoyed tractors and bulldozing just to make roads, he was a die-hard Packer fan, every gift he received related to the Green Bay Packers was placed in his own Packer room that he set up in the basement. David never missed watching a game, the world stopped when the Packers were playing.

David is survived by his wife of 51 years Mary Lou; daughters Rebecca Ann Dessellier of Iron Mountain and Laurie (Ed Benson) Britton of Powers; son Joel (Jimmie Lyn) Riley of Kingsford; grandchildren Alex (Jessica) Dessellier, Michael Dessellier, Allyssa Kirschner, Selena Britton, and Angelina Riley; great grandchildren Parker and Bronson Dessellier; sisters Marjorie (William) Schmitt of Wilson and Karen (Walter) Welch of Bark River; and brother Larry Riley of Hermansville; special nephew Rob Welch; numerous other nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by grandson Jacey Riley; and his parents Lynn and Helen (Knapp) Riley.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 27 from 10 to 12 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday at 12 p.m. at the Ortman Funeral

Home with Rev. Dr. Michael Langlais of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church officiating.

Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Faithorn.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Faithorn, MI 49892

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Service

FEB 27. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I worked with David on and off for 19 years., I also worked with his son Joel and know his daughter Becky. They are all very good people. David was a very good hearted person and I am very grateful to have known him. My heart goes out to you. Mike Manowski

Mike Manowski - March 10, 2020 at 10:11 AM

JW

“ I have worked with David a little more than 5 years now. I don' know much about hydroelectric stuff, but if I had a question, he always took the time to educate me. Must have been quite frustrating for him, but he never made me feel that way.

I came to know Herbie as a thoughtful caring man. "Salt of the Earth"

I will miss him dearly, but am fortunate to call him My Friend.

Herbie, Go be with God!

Jeff Welcher

Jeff Welcher - February 27, 2020 at 07:58 AM

LD

“ Love Debbie, Niki, Matt, Jesse, Mel, Carrie, Dave purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of David L. Riley.



Love Debbie, Niki, Matt, Jesse, Mel, Carrie, Dave - February 25, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ David was always one of my favorite cousins because we grew up together playing in the woods behind the barn when I visited from Illinois. I remember him as kind and lots of fun as well as a very hard worker. He was special! 🤗

Cheryl Riley - February 25, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of David L. Riley.



February 25, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ David had an impact on my life even with the little time we got to spend together. David was my Grandma Marjorie's brother, and I have some foggy memories of seeing him at family gatherings when I was really young. However, last spring my fiance and I were at the Memorial Day service downtown Iron Mountain and I saw him way on the other side of the crowd. My fiance thought we should go say hi and see if he remembered me. The second I walked over and introduced myself as Marjorie's granddaughter, his face lit up and he said he recognized me! We talked about work and what was going on in our lives. And then before we left, I went to shake his hand but he stopped me and said he was a hugger and gave me a big hug! I'll always remember how kind he was to me that day.

Marnina (Molgaard) Lysinger - February 25, 2020 at 09:32 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David L. Riley.*



February 24, 2020 at 07:26 PM



“ *I have so many childhood memories of all of us cousins playing together every summer when we visited. Playing at the farm, swimming in the pond at Grandma's, playing hide and seek at night in the cornfields. David was always a joy to be around. A fabulous sense of humor and he had a great smile! The last few trips we have made up north, I have not been able to see him as he was always working out of town. I am so sad about that now. He will be greatly missed, but I am thrilled to be able to say he was my cousin.*

*Love to all,
Claire and Scott*

Claire Weimer - February 24, 2020 at 07:18 PM

KL

“ So sorry to hear of David's passing. The Lord had a place for him and a reason and did not let him suffer. My brother Bob Petrick said he will sure miss David as he liked to stop by your house and talk with him as they were both inventers and could do anything. Right after the holidays we ran into David at Walmart. He said he had not run into us in years so we stood for a good 10 minutes and got caught up. He seemed so good then and was in no hurry to quit talking. So glad we had the visit. Now is time for the family to take care of each other and to remember all the good things and times. I know how hard it is but God does help us thru it. Prayer to all of you.

Ken & Bonnie LeGrave - February 24, 2020 at 06:06 PM

LT

“ Love you lots, Kurt and Amy Tanguay purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David L. Riley.



Love you lots, Kurt and Amy Tanguay - February 24, 2020 at 05:30 PM

ES

“ Ed, Laurie, and Selena purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of David L. Riley.



Ed, Laurie, and Selena - February 24, 2020 at 04:56 PM

JK

“ Please accept condolences in the passing of Dave. Dave was a problem solver, the bigger the problem the happier he was. I worked with Dave for over 25 years and I knew he had a big heart. He was my friend. Rest in peace Herb.



John Kries - February 24, 2020 at 10:37 AM

RJ

I was saddened to hear of Herbie's passing. We got to be good friends when working together at St Anthony Falls in Mn. Herbie loved hydro work. He made many work friends. He will be greatly missed. Rest In Peace Herbie in that be hydro in the sky.

Richard Johnson - February 25, 2020 at 07:18 PM

MH

I was very sorry to hear of Dave's passing. I certainly enjoyed working with him on numerous Xcel Energy Hydro plant projects. He could always find a solution to any problem that came up. He will be greatly missed. So glad to have known him.

Mark Holmberg - February 26, 2020 at 11:30 AM