



James Edward Rankin

1936 - 2016



James Edward Rankin's lengthy battle with cancer ended Monday, June 27, 2016. He died in his home with family by his side.

James (Jim) was born February 9, 1936, in Winter, Wisconsin to Edward and Catherine Rankin. He was the first of seven sons.

Jim graduated from Winter High School in 1954 before joining the U.S. Army Corps in January 1955. His three-year term of service was spent stationed in Germany. Upon returning from Europe, he attended and graduated from UW- River Falls, and subsequently earned a Master's Degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee. Jim was a broad-minded and spirited communicator. He served as a substitute teacher during his time at school to satisfy his appetite for helping others and imparting wisdoms and wise cracks.

After school, Jim worked as an insurance adjuster around the state before marrying Donna Jo Seger in 1983. The pair purchased the KOA campground in 1987 and made it their life's work to continually upgrade the business and preserve their beautiful property. A contagious positive attitude, a heart-warming sense of humor defined by a memorable arsenal of one-liners and witticisms, a hospitable and caring nature, and a spirit-lifting singing voice are among the many attributes that he shared with every guest that ever stayed at the campground. His larger than life attitude and striking resemblance to Santa Clause (at least during hunting season) could cheer the bluest among us. Because of the knack he had for making every guest feel at home, the campground received President's and Founder's Awards for excellence every year. His dedication to the project was second only to his love for life and for family.

For a man who touched so many lives, it would be impossible to sum the real impact of his life in just a few short words. Such a sum is perhaps ineffable. Now he is gone, but the legacy of a great man only strengthens in his absence. "The Great Hunter", James E Rankin, will live on in the hearts and souls of all of us. His life reminded us all that we can make our own sublime, and

as he did, we too can leave behind us an extraordinary stitch in the fabric of the lives of all those whom we meet along the way.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Donna Jo Rankin; step-children, Dawn Hanson (Steve,) Dave Seger (Tami Moore,) John Seger (Diana Rogers) ; Grandchildren, Jaci Adams (Maciek Gesikowski and great grandchild, Mateo,) Nicole Adams, Zachary and Nathan Hanson, Ben Seger, Olivia and Carolyn Seger; Brothers, Russell and his children Valerie and Robbie, Patrick (Jan) and children Pat Jr., Krista, and Kari, Fred (Eve) and children Peter and Chad, Daniel and children Kara and Ryan, David (Cathy) and son Chris, Michael (Denise) and children Kelly and Andy.

He was preceded in death by mother, Catherine E Dantzman Rankin, father, Edward L Rankin, and ex-wife Carol Smith.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Tuesday, July 5, 2016, 1:00 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Alma Center, Wisconsin. Father David Rybicki will be officiating. Military Honors to follow and burial will be held at a later date. Family and friends are invited for visitation Tuesday, from 11:00 a.m. until the time of Mass at the church.

Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home (715-963-2311) of Hixton, Wisconsin, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences are available at www.jensen-modjeskifuneralhome.com.