



James Ray Varty Sr.

December 15, 1937 - March 9, 2010

James Varty Sr., age 72, of Mahnomen, MN died Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at his home under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley.

Jim was born on December 15, 1937 to Leslie & Eldora (Chilton) Varty in White Earth, MN, and grew up in Mahnomen. After graduating from Mahnomen High School in 1955, Jim pursued his vocational interests at MSU & Dunwoody Institute, ultimately going to work for Verne Withrow at the Mahnomen Highway Department as an instrument man and draftsman.

In 1959, he married Linda L. London of Bejou, MN, and the couple moved to Rapid City, SD, where Jim took a job building interstate highways for Charles Miller & Schimkat Construction. The couple returned to Mahnomen in 1962, where Jim worked various construction jobs until 1967. He then went to work for Anderson Brothers Construction in Fosston, MN, and was employed there for the next 20 years.

Jim and Linda were married for 31 years, until Linda's death in 1991. Together they raised 6 children.

Throughout his life, Jim had a passion for automobiles and found great joy in restoring antique cars. He could frequently be found in his shop surrounded by friends both helping and watching as he meticulously worked on his cars. Jim was particularly proud of his 1941 Ford Coupe Convertible.

An avid deer hunter, Jim and his good friend and hunting partner, Ron Hendrickson, enjoyed many hunts east of Itasca State Park. It is there that they co-founded the "High Chaparral" Hunting Camp. Jim shared his

enthusiasm for hunting with his sons and grandsons and looked forward to spending time with them each deer season at camp.

Jim was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, lifetime member of the Rod & Gun Club, National Rifle Association, Minnesota Darkhouse Association and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Mahnomen.

Jim is survived by 3 sons: Charles (Kathy), Twin Valley, MN, Leslie (Sabrina), Mahnomen, MN, James Jr. (Peggy), Rockford, MN; three daughters: Mary (David) Kaiser, Gary, MN, Julie (Gregory) LaVoy, Naytahwaush, MN, Rachel (Henry) Keogh, Stillwater, MN; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; three sisters: Lois Otto, Mahnomen, Patricia (Alton) Erickson, Erskine, MN, and Cecelia (Alan) Bemis, St. Petersburg, FL.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; brother, Guy Varty; and two sisters, Yvonne Columbus and Jeannine Strandemo.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ *To the Varty Family. I am sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Terri (Klabunde) Anderson - March 15, 2010 at 09:05 PM

DF

“ *Sorry to here of James! The familys are in our thoughts! Don and Laura Fjeld.*

Donald and Laura Fjeld - March 15, 2010 at 09:46 AM

LR

“ *To the Varty Family,
Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your father and grandfather.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.
God Bless! Joanne & Larry*

Larry & Joanne Revier - March 13, 2010 at 04:50 PM

SS

“ *Julie, Greg and family, I just happened to come across the obituary of your Dad, Julie. I offer my prayers and sympathy to you and your family. I have so many memories of you folks in NayTahWaush. S. Jean*

S. Jean Schwartz - March 12, 2010 at 05:14 PM

WU

“ *TO THE FAMILY OF JIM--YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS. I CAN REMEMBER JIM AS A VERY POSITIVE PERSON AND A GREAT CLASSMATE AT MHS. CLASS OF 1955. BLESSINGS TO EACH OF YOU.*

wayne uhliir - March 12, 2010 at 10:03 AM

JL

“ To the family of "Jimmy Ray" from a MHS 1955 classmate: Our deepest sympathy on your loss, and a great loss to all of us. Jimmy Ray was always good for a laugh during our high school years and was a reliable member of the class over the years. We will sure miss him. Jim (and Gerry) Langemo, and the class of 1955.

Jim Langemo - March 11, 2010 at 12:48 PM