



James LeRoy Vance

December 17, 1985 - September 13, 2024

James LeRoy Vance Jr., age 39, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly late September 13, 2024, at MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie. He was born on December 17, 1985, in Omaha, Nebraska, to James Sr. and Tina (Pergil) Vance.

James's early childhood in Nebraska introduced him to the value of hard work and ambition, instilling in him a certain fearlessness, a pathway of entrepreneurship and the drive for new opportunity. James's journey was by design, broad and spectacular, just like him; filled with experiences, friendships, and an uncanny ability to excel in all of his endeavors be it owning his own tattoo parlor or driving new business growth for the regional construction industry. Known for his ideas and concepts in business, construction, and technology, he was in many regards ahead of his time, never deterred and a determined force of nature. Not one to play it safe, to simply 'test the waters' was not James, he lived and loved head-first. On April 12, 2014, James married Catherine "Maggie" Carr of Sault Sainte Marie. Soulmates (both stubborn, neither known for caution, and both inclined to live life to the fullest) found in each other a deep and rare love that only true soulmates can understand. A love that endures and transcends beyond the stars. Although James's treasures were many, none were so spectacular as those of his and Maggie's children, Ryder and Scarlett. In Ryder, a son to love, protect, teach, share, and watch grow into a young man capable of

overcoming any challenge and adversity in life, to protect and ensure the future. Scarlett, his princess, very much the embodiment of both James and Maggie. Strong willed and much like her dad, without fear, unrelenting, and independent. James's loved being out in the elements, be it on the water fishing for walleye with his best friend Galon or grilling and camping. He loved to be around the campfire sharing stories and laughing with family and friends. But his greatest passion was always Maggie and the life they built together. Never one to shy away from any challenge, he was self-taught in life and lived without fear, James took on all the world had to give him. Although his journey on Earth was short-lived by mortal measure, his memory and the imprint he left on the lives of the people he loved and loved him will endure forever.

James was a deep caring and selfless soul, putting others above himself. He helped take care of his grandparents in their later years in the Sault, and in service to his country as a Veteran during his tour of duty in Michigan's National Guard.

James is survived by his wife, Maggie (Catherine); his son, Ryder and daughter, Scarlett; mother, Tina (Pergil) Vance; father and stepmother, James Sr. and Beth Vance; brothers, Austin Vance, Jesse Vance, Brandon Buchholz, Ben McCaleb and his sister Ciara Vance; his wife's parents, Frederick T. Carr Sr. and Joanne P. Carr; as well as brothers-in-law, Frederick T. Carr Jr. and Christopher J. Carr and sister-in-law, Jennifer (Carr) Mckerchie and countless nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues who loved him dearly.

James was preceded in death by his grandparents, Jim and Jill Pergil of Sault Ste. Marie, and Elijah and Christine Vance of Omaha, NE.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, beginning at 1:00 PM for close family and friends, and at 4:00 PM for the

public with pipe ceremony at 7:00 PM. On Friday, September 20, 2024, the traditional ceremony will commence at 10:00 AM with the burial afterwards. A luncheon will follow in the early afternoon at Maloney's Alley, 227 W Portage Ave. Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Final resting place will be Wilwalk Cemetery on Sugar Island, Michigan.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Cemetery Details

Wilwalk Cemetery

Sugar Island
Sugar Island, MI 49783

Previous Events

Traditional Ceremony

SEP 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building
11 Ice Circle
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Visitation

SEP 19. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building
11 Ice Circle
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Pipe Ceremony

SEP 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

Niigaanaagiizhik Ceremonial Building
11 Ice Circle
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *B Leandra Brean Brandon Jr LauNai & Gia purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James LeRoy Vance.*



B Leandra Brean Brandon Jr LauNai & Gia - September 18, 2024 at 04:04 PM

JW

“ *Maggie, I am so sorry about James. Please know I am thinking of you and the children.*

judy weighman - September 18, 2024 at 04:02 PM

TA

“ *Tara, Isaac and Adriel purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James LeRoy Vance.*



Tara, Isaac and Adriel - September 18, 2024 at 12:44 PM

SF

“ *Steve and Kim Dennis and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James LeRoy Vance.*

Steve and Kim Dennis and Family - September 18, 2024 at 02:22 AM

SF

“ Steve and Kim Dennis and Family purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of James LeRoy Vance.



Steve and Kim Dennis and Family - September 18, 2024 at 02:22 AM

JM

“ . . . So sad learning the news of James passing. Came to know him from his time at Lock City. Then more recent he & his partner happily & enthusiastically operating their Contracting business. He told me of his new sawblade sharpening device & bring me over some blades. I told him I had some 12 inchers & ya. That was about 2 months ago didn't make it. Then I just saw him last week, maybe the same day, & told him "Haven't forgot about them saw blades, Sooner than Later" one of the things I say, He grinned. Then I said "Look'n good James, keep it up" . . . James Leroy Vance . . . A very wonderful man. . . .

Jeff Milligan - September 17, 2024 at 06:23 PM

DP

There are no words to express your lose....our Prayers and Thoughts are with you....!

David Pergl - September 18, 2024 at 12:23 PM

MS

“ Mark, Sara, Blake & Emma Schoon purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James LeRoy Vance.



Mark, Sara, Blake & Emma Schoon - September 17, 2024 at 05:41 PM

MG

“ Marty, Melissa, Silas and Sutton Gurnoe purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of James LeRoy Vance.



Marty, Melissa, Silas and Sutton Gurnoe - September 17, 2024 at 04:44 PM

RF

“ Rob Hall and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James LeRoy Vance.

Rob Hall and Family - September 17, 2024 at 02:44 PM

RF

“ Rob Hall and Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of James LeRoy Vance.



Rob Hall and Family - September 17, 2024 at 02:44 PM

TF

“ The Haydon Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James LeRoy Vance.

The Haydon Family - September 17, 2024 at 12:50 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of James LeRoy Vance.*



September 17, 2024 at 12:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James LeRoy Vance.*



September 17, 2024 at 12:32 PM



“ *Krysta and Danielle Fike purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James LeRoy Vance.*



Krysta and Danielle Fike - September 17, 2024 at 10:32 AM