



## Vern R. Bates

September 4, 1931 - May 21, 2015

Vern Russell Bates, 83 of Crystal Falls, passed away on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at Northstar Health System in Iron River. He was born on September 4, 1931 in Mansfield Township, son of the late Alan and Ethel (Vonckx) Bates. Vern married Wilma Ewig in Channing on October 27, 1951 and had spent more than 63 years together.

In Vern's early years he worked as a logger with his father and helped out on the family farm. He worked at the Cayia Mine for a time, and also drove truck. He then went to work as a welder at the Groveland Mine, retiring in 1981 when the mine closed. Vern was an avid hunter and fisherman and made several trips to Montana and Wyoming, hunting elk and mule deer.

Vern is survived by his wife, Wilma Bates of Crystal Falls; his children, Larry Bates of Crystal Falls, Thomas Bates of Crystal Falls, Bonnie Nakayama of Miliani, Hawaii, and Nancy Gaasbeck of Crystal Falls; 9 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; brother, Robert Bates of Sagola; sister, Dorothy Slivensky of Crystal Falls;

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Janine LaChappelle, his granddaughter, Alexandra "Alex" LaChappelle, and a sister, Patricia Autio

At Vern's request there will be no funeral service.

Condolences to the family of Vern R. Bates can be expressed online at [www.nashfuneralhome.net](http://www.nashfuneralhome.net)

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the funeral arrangements