



## Norman Edward "Ed" Risk

July 27, 1944 - March 27, 2016

Norman Edward "Ed" Risk

TRAVERSE CITY – Norman Edward "Ed" Risk, age 71, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2016, at his home in the loving care of his family.

Ed was born to Norman and Irene (McCutcheon) Risk on July 27, 1944 in Midland, MI. He grew up in Petoskey, MI and graduated from Petoskey High School in 1962. Ed attended Northwestern Michigan College where he met his wife, Carolyn Scott Risk. He graduated with a BS degree (biology-chemistry) from Northern Michigan University in 1968. They married August 3 of that year. In October 1968 Ed and Carolyn joined the United States Peace Corps and served in Botswana, Southern Africa as teachers for 2 years.

After returning to the U.S., Ed worked on a research project with the Illinois State Water Survey. In 1974 they returned to Traverse City where Ed worked began a successful career in Research and Development with Dow Chemical. Throughout various organizational changes he remained with the company. He retired from Kennametal in 2008.

Ed's many hobbies include: working as a Master Gardener, bicycle touring, woodworking, ham radio, riding his Triumph motorcycle and playing bagpipes with the Grand Traverse Pipes and Drums.

Ed is survived by his wife, Carolyn Scott Risk of Traverse City; son, Norman C. (Liz) Risk of Battle Creek; a granddaughter, Alicia M. Risk of Kalamazoo; sister, Michele (John McCutcheon) Montague of Charlevoix; and a brother, Abe Montague, of Seattle, WA. A graveside service honoring Ed will be held later in the spring. Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Ed's family at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.



# Cemetery

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## **Oakwood Cemetery**

1325 East Eighth Street

Traverse City, MI, 49686

# Comments

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“ Amy lit a candle in memory of Norman Edward "Ed" Risk



Amy - November 20, 2017 at 03:18 PM

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“ Dear Carolyn,  
I'm so sorry to hear, only now, of Ed's passing. What a shame that we have let so much time pass between us. Your last letter a couple of years ago mentioned Ed's bagpipe playing and we thought we really should meet at some highland festival somewhere.  
We have such good memories of you both from Frogmore and Botswana. By the end of training, all of us had decided Ed was the person we would most want to have along if we were stranded on an island (or anywhere, for that matter).  
I know you must miss him terribly. The picture of him smiling with his bagpipes on this memorial page shows a very happy man. We remember him that way. Let your friends' and loved ones' sympathy, care, and warm memories wrap you in comfort. We would love to see you if you are ever heading south.  
Kathy and Rob Angus

Kathy Angus - February 04, 2017 at 11:12 AM

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“ Dear Carolyn: Please accept my sincere sympathy on the passing of your husband. I never met Ed personally, but I probably heard him playing his bagpipes at many occasions around town. Even though you and I run into each other only once in awhile, I still remember the fun we had during aerobics class at the resort. My thoughts are with you. Sincerely, Betty Tremp

Betty Tremp - April 15, 2016 at 09:04 AM

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“ A man with the a heart the size of Little Traverse Bay where he grew up. A great friend, neighbor, husband, father and person. He played his beloved bagpipes every chance, and I will always remember those sounds echoing across High Lake.

Laura and Craig Webb - April 05, 2016 at 07:26 PM

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“ Craig and I, neighbors of the Risks, were so sorry to hear of Ed's passing. Things progressed quite fast that we really weren't able to grasp that Ed wouldn't be around on High Lake much longer. We will miss seeing him tinkering in his yard, the light on in his shop, walking the dogs, or hearing him practice his bagpipes. I believe Craig would agree that our favorite memory of Ed was when he played the bagpipes at a summer party that we had to kick off a kayaking/swimming event on the lake for our friends. I hope Ed is smiling down on everyone. He will be missed.

Laura and Craig Webb - April 05, 2016 at 04:45 PM

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“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Norm Risk - April 04, 2016 at 09:56 AM

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“ Dear Carolyn and family, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. I've always enjoyed painting with you in the past and Dave enjoyed working with Ed. I did not know him, but Dave said he was one heck of a nice person. Our prayers and thoughts go out to all of you. Kim and Dave Skrzypczak

Kim and Dave Skrzypczak - April 03, 2016 at 07:54 AM

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“ My memories of Ed stem from years ago at company picnics. He was friendly, kind, and quiet, but it was his sense of humor I remember most. I simply enjoyed listening to him talk--just the way he'd put/say things. I was always so impressed that Ed and Carolyn began their married life in the Peace Corps. Hard work for sure--but tinged with the exotic. And I suspect that experience shifted and enriched their world view in ways few other adventures can. A successful career, solid family life, and myriad interests/hobbies--Ed's life was certainly one well lived. My condolences to Carolyn, Norman, and the rest of Ed's family. Pat Mericle

Pat Mericle - March 30, 2016 at 02:10 PM

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“ So, many, many memories of Ed and Carolyn it is hard to know where to start. Carolyn was a sophomore and I a senior at Central High School and actually knew each other in band. I first met Ed at his Mother's house on the Peninsula when I was eighteen or nineteen but didn't get to really know him until 1983 when I joined Kelsey-Hayes (aka Dow Chemical later Boride Products then Kennametal) and we worked together in the same building for the next 25 years. Ed and I spent many moments discussing such esoteric things as lightning, Irish vs Scottish pipes, why the winds blows and on and on. Ed sent me a very nice conciliatory letter last summer when my Mother passed away and I never responded as I should have. I was always planning to but never seemed to get around to it. Ed and I often remarked to each other "The road to Hell is paved with Good Intentions" and would laugh- little did I understand how prophetic it would be. Rest easy, Ed and my best to you Carolyn.  
Chris Mericle

Chris Mericle - March 30, 2016 at 09:52 AM

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“ We have been Ed and Carolyn's next door neighbors for the last ten years on high lake. We have been very close "at a distance". This was because Ed never wanted to "bother" us. This was never a bother and usually lasted three times longer than he said it would. If you would have a picture of the "perfect neighbor it would be Ed and. This will create a huge hole in our lives and will negatively th whole neighborhood around high lake. Meg and Gary kuhlman....spot and Jackie

gary and megan kuhlman - March 29, 2016 at 07:48 PM

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“ I first met Ed and Carolyn at NMC. We we were all biology students. We went to NMU at the same time and graduated together in 1968. We often got together on weekends at our trailer in Harvey. Our study sessions lasted for hours and usually ended up with tube steaks on the hibachi grill. I NEVER could have gotten through organic chem without Ed's help. After graduation we stood for them at their August 3rd lakeshore wedding in Northern Michigan. When they went to Botswana, we kept in touch through 3 inch reel to reel audio tapes.. They shared their wonderful stories of teaching and traveling which I in turn shared with my students here in Leelanau. Lifelong friends, I had the pleasure of reminiscing with Ed on Good Friday. We shared stories of our youth from science projects in Marquette, our lives and careers and grand children. Of course, I got a big smile out of him when I mentioned the little red Spitfire!

I never see a snowfence without thinking of Ed, Carol, Judy and I and the GREAT SNOWFENCE CAPER! We miss you dearly, Ed. See you on the other side.

Charlie Belanger

Charlie Belanger - March 29, 2016 at 04:43 PM