



Dan Zini

August 19, 1923 - December 31, 2011

Dan August Zini, of Iron Mountain, MI passed away at the age of 88, on December 31, 2011 at Marquette General Hospital.

Dan was born in Caspian, MI, on August 19, 1923, one of 7 siblings and the last to survive. He was married to Claudia Girlando of Chicago, IL in 1946 until she passed away in 1975. In 1977 he married Vicki (Bara) Kiel. Dan and Vicki had been married for 34 years.

He is a graduate of Stambaugh High School and obtained his BS and Masters Degree at Northern Michigan University. Dan was a gifted carpenter, working for 20 years as a woodworker and builder prior to becoming a teacher. Dan was employed at Iron Mountain High School for 20 years from 1965 to 1985. He served his students as an industrial arts teacher, developing the only Building Trades Program in Upper MI. which was implemented in 1970. His students experienced first hand his passion for teaching and were able to learn all trades related to building a home from the ground up. He was well respected by his students and recognized for his exceptional teaching, earning the "teacher of the year" award for several years.

He served his country as a Corporal in the US Army in World War II, stationed in Japan and the Philippines.

He was a Eucharistic Minister at Immaculate Conception Church for many years. Dan was actively involved in the Knights of Columbus as a past Grand Knight, 4th Degree Honor Guard and Faithful Navigator.

Dan served his community continually contributing his time and talents. He was an alderman on the city council, serving on several commissions as well as sharing his gifts of woodworking, building, and endless donations of his projects to churches and numerous organizations.

He enjoyed hunting, golfing, bocce ball, cribbage, playing cards and never missed watching the Packers.

Dan, also known as Dante, dad, grandpa and papa, enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was an amazing storyteller, a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. Each Christmas he made a special woodworking gift for his children and grandchildren, signed and dated, forever treasured.

He was preceded 3 brothers, Raymond, Leno and Ferris Zini, and 3 sisters, Rita Lind, Zara Aldegarie, and Lea DeMillio.

Dan is survived by his wife, Vicki; his son, Robin Zini of Gwinn, MI; daughters, Barbara (David) Cronk and Dana Zini, both of San Diego, CA, Maryann (Jim) Ingle of Marquette, MI; and son, Eugene Kiel of Ann Arbor, MI; along with seven grandchildren, Christina Zini (Thierry de Cock Buning), Angela Zini, Jenna Moore, Lauren Bille, Amanda Ingle, Jessica Kiel and Joshua Kiel; and one great granddaughter, Marissa Moore.

Dan lived his life to serve others, he had a charitable and Christian heart, a caring spirit and endless energy. He was given the gift of teaching and working with his hands as a woodworker and carpenter which he did with passion and enthusiasm. He touched the lives of many and was well respected by all.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 6th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home. The Knights of Columbus will recite the rosary at 7:00pm Friday evening followed by a time of sharing.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 9:30am at Immaculate Conception Church. Msgr. James Kaczmarek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in Cemetery Park. Pallbearers will be Don Antonetti, Mike Bennett, Bill McCarty, Mike Taylor, Don Tramontin, and Bill Wiegler.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made in memory of Dan Zini to: Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Blaine Street, Iron Mountain, MI, 49801 or U.P. Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association 710 Chippewa Square, #201 Marquette, MI 49855 upperpeninsula@alzgmc.org

We have all been blessed to know Dan; he will be greatly missed. Those we love, don't go away, they walk beside us, always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Dan Zini online at www.ernasfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Rosary

JAN 6. 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 7. 9:30 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
500 Blaine St.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

JT

“ We wish to extend our most sincerely condolences to the family of Dan Zini. I worked for years with Dan as a fellow teacher at Iron Mountain Schools. He will always be remembered by us as the kind, compassionate, gentleman that he was. He taught me to eat the peelings off the oranges when we had lunch together ! He also taught me many woodworking "secrets of the trade" that you cannot find in books ! He was truly a gifted carpenter and highly skilled, creative craftsman and a friend you could count on!!!
I will miss him and shall always remember his kindness to others.
He shall remain in our prayers forever.
Kindest Regards,
Jerry and Connie

Jerry Dobrzenski - Crystal Falls, MI, MI - fellow industrial ed. teacher - January 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Robin and girls,

We're so sorry to read of your father's passing, Robin. We hope your fond memories of him, and God's Holy Spirit, will sustain you during this sad time, and through the years to come. God Bless you all.

Mike & Susan

Mike & Susan Baldock - Lansing, MI - Friends of Robin - January 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *"Mom", Eugene and Family,*

What a great man!

in reading Dan's obituary it reminded me of all the stories Eugene has shared with me over the past 27 years of his dad.

He did so much for so many people. All with an unselfish attitude and with a smile.

My times playing golf with him and Eugene are treasures to be remembered. Also, his sage counsel around Eugene's kitchen table in Ann Arbor will stay with me forever.

The candles that were lit by he and "Mom" for Eugene, Lynne, CText and I were very special and discussed often.

What a great man, what an inspiration to so many people.....

Larry Moore and Family

Larry Moore - MI - January 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *To The Dan Zini Family*

When Joyce and I first moved to Iron Mountain in 1986 Dan and Vicki became dear friends of us and my mother in law Phyliss Holowenski. They both were very personable and very friendly. That made the world of difference to us and made us feel at home.

I also know Dan from the Knights of Columbus. He inspired me to become a 4th Degree Knight. He always was there when volunteers were needed and he inspired me in that respect also. He will be missed allot.

Our Prayers are with him and his whole family.

I am sorry that I could not be at the funeral as I have surgery on my tendons going to and around my rotor cuff. I can't be in public yet as if someone bumps into me it could tear more.

PS: I just turned to the 4th Degree and it would be an honor if Dan has the 4th degree cape, sword, cap, and etc I would like to purchase them. That way he still would be with us at the 4th degree in the Knights of Columbus. My phone number is 906-774-4531. Again Dan was an exceptional man and a man that I looked up to and cherished.

Ronald Wilinski - Kingsford, MI - Dear Friend - January 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Vicki and Family'

I will always remember Dan's smile and good nature. He brought his good nature where ever he went. I will always the time that Dan and you came over to repair our stair ralling. You were quite the carpenters helper.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and family.

God Bless you,

Frank Landsee - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - January 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dear Vicki and family,

With our deepest sympathy and with fond memories. Dante will be missed but never forgotten. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Much Love,

MaryEllen (Parent) Allen and family

MaryEllen Allen - Manitowoc, WI - Friend - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ dan was mt teacher in 1966 1967 1968.he was a great man to work with .his classes were the only time i looked forward in going to school.he allways had a good word for all his students to this day.he will be sadly missed

mike pirlot - iron mountain, MI - student - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ I was very fortunate to meet Rob's dad, just before Robin left for Arizona. We went to visit him at Jacobetti Veterans facility. His face lit up when he saw his son, as he was sitting in a lounge with many others, probably waiting for their relatives and friends to show up, sometime. we went to his room, and Robin wanted to make sure his father had his cell phone number, so he could call "anytime". Mr. Zini gave me a hug and a kiss on the cheek..and I knew he had a good spirit about him, and was a special man. I won't forget the visit with Mr. Zini. My heart goes out to the family. We know he's in heaven, in his glory.

Joan Erickson - Marquette, MI - friend of Rob Zini - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Dana, Eugene and family,
We were so sorry to hear of your fathers passing. He was such a nice man. The last time we saw your mom and dad was at Bobs 80th B-day party. That was this past May. They both were enjoying themselves, even though the weather was not cooperating. We are so sorry for your loss and am equally sorry that we cannot make it to the services. It would be so wonderful to see the two of you, even under such sad circumstances. It has been such a long time. Where have the years gone.? We wanted you to know you are in our thoughts. Love, Mike and Lori

Dr. Mike and Lori (Ganz) Mellon - Iron Mountain, MI - Friend - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ *Dear Vicki and Family
Patti and I are sorry we cannot be there for you and your family. We send our condolence and prayers. While we realize this is a difficult time for all of you we hope that you can be consoled by celebrating a great man's life.
God Bless all of you!*

Bill and Patti Cooke

William & Patti Cooke - Ocala, FL - Friends - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *I only knew Dan for a short time but enough to know what an effect that he had on everyone,s life that he came in contact with. I wish i could have known him in his early days. I had the pleasure of having dinner with him and Vicki last time me and Dana had come up to visit. They made me feel very special what a feast it was and in between his jokes which he did throw in there once in a while. He would talk to me like he knew me forever i just knew what a great guy he was just by the the little time i spent talking to him in private. I just want to say to the family it was a pleasure and really an honor to have known such a great man and how he had touched my life in the short time i have had to known him and i am sure he has touched many others what a great man he was. We Should all pause a moment to reflect on these words Mr. Dan Zini may be gone from body and soul but we should all remember this that the world is a better place because he was here.
My deepest sympathy to the whole family.*

With love , Tony Labranche

Tony Labranche - winchester , CA - Dana Zini fiancée - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ To Viki and family, My heartfelt sympathy on Dans passing. He will be missed by all of us who have known him these many years.
Allan D. Dighera Kingsford, MI

Allan Dighera - Kingsford, MI - Friend - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Robin, we're sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Our deepest condolences to you and your family.

Bob and Liz Swanson

Bob Swanson - Marquette, MI - Friend - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dear Robin and Family,

Suzanne and I are deeply sorry about the passing of your father. Dan is someone who will be deeply missed. In this hour of sorrow may we find strength to celebrate his life. May all the memories of great times with Dan embrace us all and fill our hearts with joyous thoughts of his life. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dan, you, and the Family. May God Bless!

Mike and Suzanne Hellman

Mike and Suzanne Hellman - Marquette, MI - Friends - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Aunt Vickie and family,
Sorry to hear about Uncle Dan and you all are in our thoughts and Prayers. Although we will not be able to attend the funeral, we will be making a contribution to Immaculate Conception to celebrate his life. We will see you next time we are home. Love, Mike, Mary, Albert and Sarah

Mike, Mary, Albert and Sarah Bjork - Sterling , VA - Nephew and family - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Over the years it was a familiar sight to see Dan and Vicki in service to their fellow parishoners at Immaculate Conception Church in Iron Mountain. Common, too, was a friendly remark and smile from Dan as he chanced to meet you in the aisle...whether you were a close friend or an acquaintance.
Our hearts go out to Vicki and all of her and Dan's family at this time. Please accept our condolences.

Merle & Betty Parsons - Iron Mountain , MI - friend - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ My family and I were so sad to hear of the passing of Uncle Dan. He was such a wonderful man and I know he will be missed by many. Heartfelt condolences to Vicki, Robin, Barbara & Dana and the rest of the family.

Karen (Klinkefus) Saldivar - South Elgin, IL - Niece - January 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *My deepest sympathy. Mr. Zini was a great guy! My favorite teacher and mentor. I will miss him. Once again I would liek to extend my deepest sympathy to all. Mr. Zini will be in my thoughts and prayers.*
Sincerely,
Jim Fornetti

Jim Fornetti - Iron Mountain, MI - January 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *Dear Family and Friends of Mr. Dan Zini;*

It was my pleasure to know and work with Dan from 1971 until 1985.

The world is a better place because of what Dan did while he was here.

Love; Pat and Jack Richtig

Pat and Jack Richtig - Orlando, FL - colleague at IMHS in Ind. Arts - January 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Robin & Barbara,*

So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He will be in Patti and my prayers. I remember my one and only time I went deer hunting with him. Just last week I had lunch with Steve Rubin and we talked about that weekend and what a culture shock it was for the the big city Jewish boy. to shoot a deer

Fondly,
Rex

Rex Owens - Chicago, IL - College friend - January 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM