



## Daniel J. Benishek

April 20, 1952 - October 15, 2021

Daniel “Dano” Joseph Benishek, 69, of Crystal Falls, passed away unexpectedly on October 15th, 2021.

Dan was born April 20th, 1952 in Iron River. From the time he was five years old, he and his younger brother were raised by his mother, Helen Benishek, after his father, Joseph Benishek, died in a mining accident. Dan went on to graduate with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan and proceeded to acquire his medical degree from Wayne State University. He then returned home to the U.P. to practice medicine. Following a successful career as a surgeon, Dan went on to serve 3 consecutive terms representing Northern Michigan in Congress.

In addition to his professional accolades, Dan was a licensed pilot, certified scuba diver, accomplished sailor, and played a mean game of cribbage. Nothing would elicit his infectious laughter quite like a skunking of his friends and family.

Dan loved being around people, and he always had room for more at his table. He also originated many spoken “Dano-isms”. Some of his most famous catchphrases include: “8 sweet ones”, “a ‘doz’ does it”, “if-dog-rabbit”, “one thin mint”, “zippidy doo dah”, and “oooooooooh”.

Dan enjoyed traveling the world with his wife, making lasting memories along the way, and positively impacting anyone lucky enough to cross paths with him. Upon retirement his greatest joy was spending quality time with his family, grandkids, friends, and those that meant the world to him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Judy; his children, Joseph Benishek (Christine Mattila) of Marquette, Kirby (Dean) Emerson of Wausau, Mick Grunlund of Florida, Adrienne (Neil) Black of Ohio, and Todd Benishek of Iron River; his grandchildren, Blaiden and Vayda Emerson and Allison, Frank, and Archie Black; a brother, Tim (Tammi) Benishek of Madison; his mother-in-law, Zella Flaminio of Iron Mountain, sisters-in-law, Sandy (Doug) Delie of Green Bay and Mary Flaminio of Milwaukee; numerous extended family members and special longtime friend, Willie Winton of Iron Mountain.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Joseph Benishek, and his father-in-law, Don "Flip" Flaminio.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, October 23rd at St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Fr. Janusz Romanek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. There will be an after party at Solberg's Greenleaf Bar & Grill, 1340 Carpenter Ave.

Dan was a strong advocate for Veteran's affairs. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to U.P. Honor Flight. [www.upperpeninsulahonorflight.org](http://www.upperpeninsulahonorflight.org)

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Daniel Benishek online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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



# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church  
414 Prospect Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall



“ Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Daniel J. Benishek



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**Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home** - October 25, 2021 at 09:35 AM

DM

“ Judy and family—my heartfelt condolences. May you find comfort and peace in your treasured memories. Those will reside in your hearts forever.  
RIP Dan



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**Diane McKinnon** - November 15, 2021 at 12:38 PM

FK

“ How our family enjoyed each other as kids at "Aunt Helen's" house in Iron River. Rest in peace, Dan.

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**Fr. Jerry Kaywell** - October 30, 2021 at 02:48 PM

BS

“ Our condolences to the Benishek and Flaminio families. Dan had a positive impact on all those who were fortunate enough to meet him including myself. Dan's spirit will live within all of us forever. Per the family's request we have made a contribution to the U.P. Honor Flight organization. Bob & Ellen Schmand

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**Bob Schmand** - October 29, 2021 at 04:40 PM

FV

“ My condolences to Judy and family! I was shocked to find out about Dr Dan’s death from a former parishioner in Iron River today. I just saw him in June before my transfer. May his soul Rest In Peace, and May God Comfort you!



Fr. Greg Veneklas - October 25, 2021 at 12:05 AM

CG

“ So very sorry to hear about Dr. Benishek. He will be missed by all who knew him at the VAMC. Our deepest sympathy to all of you. May he Rest In Peace.

Cynthia Gordon - October 23, 2021 at 07:44 PM

SP

“ So proud of Dr. Dan my 1st cousin!! Many good memories at his home on Chicagon Lake summer of 2010 when my son Jason and I visited from CA. He and Judy visited me in CA in 2019 and he was always so loving.  
Susan Jo



Susan Jo Paquin - October 23, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



October 22, 2021 at 05:59 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 22, 2021 at 04:49 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 22, 2021 at 04:03 PM



“ *Karen Salo lit a candle in memory of Daniel J. Benishek*



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**Karen Salo** - October 21, 2021 at 04:21 PM

SD

“ Dear Judy & Tim...

*We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Dan. He was such a nice guy & always so friendly! May God's love and all your cherished memories help to comfort you at this sad time.*

*Please know that Dan & Family are in our thoughts & prayers.*

*With Deepest Sympathy~*

*Sid & Janet (Mileski) Dye  
Iron Mountain/Iron River*

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**S & J Dye** - October 21, 2021 at 04:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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October 21, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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October 21, 2021 at 12:34 PM

LB

“ Love, JoAnn & Dan. Blough purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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**Love, JoAnn & Dan. Blough** - October 21, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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October 20, 2021 at 07:32 PM

PY

“ So sorry, he was one of the best, Zukie aka Pat Young

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**Pat Young** - October 20, 2021 at 02:04 PM

JK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Joan Kaywell** - October 20, 2021 at 12:35 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 20, 2021 at 09:29 AM



“ *We have many memories of traveling with Dan and Judy to Tonga, Costa Rica and St. Lucia We will miss his laugh and his wonderful cooking skills. You will be greatly missed Dano!!!! Carl and Chris Reinighaus*

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**Carl and Christine Reinighaus** - October 19, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 19, 2021 at 02:44 PM



“ *Marc Mogan & Jon Ellis purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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**Marc Mogan & Jon Ellis** - October 19, 2021 at 02:14 PM

MT

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Peter Trembath purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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**Mr. & Mrs. Peter Trembath** - October 19, 2021 at 01:47 PM

JZ

“ *I would like send my condolences to the family. Dan was a friend of mine for many years. He was a true friend who was always a pleasure to be around. Unfortunately, I retired and left the area so I wasn't able to connect with him during the last years. He will always be a person I will miss. Jim Zeeb*

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**Jim Zeeb** - October 19, 2021 at 10:56 AM

CL

“ *Congressman Benishek did alot of work for us Veterans while he was in Congress. All his work will not be forgotten thats for sure. May he rest in peace. Sympathy to the family for your loss.  
God Bless  
Chuck and Michelle Lantz*



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**Chuck Lantz** - October 18, 2021 at 10:07 PM

BL

“ *It was an honor to serve in Congress with Dan, a sincere and thoughtful man. Our hearts go out to Judy. - U.S. Rep. Bob and Marcia Latta*

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**Bob and Marcia Latta** - October 18, 2021 at 09:50 PM

OW

“ My deep sympathy to Judy and all the Benishek and Flaminio Familys. Keeping you in prayer knowing he will be missed by all. This good man helped so many others with health issues and as a Yooper and Michigan congressman. May God's loving arms embrace you even as he welcomes Dan into his heavenly home. God be with you.  
Orice Walters



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Orice Walters - October 18, 2021 at 08:24 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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October 18, 2021 at 07:17 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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October 18, 2021 at 05:52 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.



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October 18, 2021 at 04:00 PM

DD

“ *Condolences to the Family!!! Rest in Peace DR. DAN!!!*

**Dick & Gail Dabb** - October 18, 2021 at 02:21 PM

JK

“ *Joanie and I will always treasure Dan's visits. He lived life immensely and his passing leaves a void of sadness to those who knew and loved him. God bless you Judy and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. May Dano RIP in the arms of his Loving Savior in heaven.*

*Jimmy Kaywell and Joanie DeLucas*

**James Kaywell** - October 18, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



October 18, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



October 18, 2021 at 08:42 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 17, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 17, 2021 at 04:33 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel J. Benishek.*



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October 17, 2021 at 04:25 PM