



Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi

October 5, 1954 - September 29, 2025

Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi, 70, of Channing, passed away peacefully September 29th, 2025, after a courageous battle with prostate cancer.

Dan was born in Kalamazoo, MI, on October 5th, 1954, to the late Raymond Nurmi and Delores (Holvick) Will. After graduating from Wakefield High School In 1972, he received an associate's degree from Gogebic Community College and a master's degree from Northern Michigan University. On June 14th, 1975, he married Jeanne (Pretti) Nurmi in Wakefield, MI, and they shared 50 beautiful years together. He was a wonderful father and grandfather to his five children and 12 grandchildren. He was a teacher and later the principal at North Dickinson School in Felch, MI, for over 20 years. During his time there, he coached several sports teams and worked at many track events. After retiring, he returned to North Dickinson as a substitute teacher.

Dan and Jeanne lived on a lake and enjoyed starting their day with a cup of coffee and "dock talk." He loved nature and being outdoors where he could hunt, fish, cross country ski, trek on his handmade snowshoes, and create trails through the woods with his Ventrac tractor. Dan was a talented snare drummer and had recently joined Zion Lutheran Church's praise band. His Finnish and Norwegian heritage were important to him. He had great SISU and loved taking saunas. He was a teacher, mentor, and friend to many throughout his life. More than anything, Dan cherished his time and precious

memories made with his loving wife, children, and grandchildren.

Dan will be deeply missed by his wife, Jeanne; five children, Brian (Kimberly) Nurmi, Amanda (David) Grunlund, Joseph (Nicole) Nurmi, John (Brandi) Nurmi, Jacob (Kristi) Nurmi; 12 grandchildren, Anja, Henry, Luke, Caleb, Claire, Rowan, Dominic, Sophie, Jason, Ava, Noah, and Amelia; 4 siblings, Joyce (Mike) Olson, Dale (Micky) Nurmi, Judy (Mike) Caruso, and JoAnn Nurmi; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Dianne (Rod) Linn and Michael (Sue) Pretti; and many other nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

In addition to his parents, Dan is preceded in death by 2 siblings, Douglas Nurmi and Janice Maki, and his parents-in-law, Henry and Margaret Pretti.

Visitation will be at the Zion Lutheran Church, W4703 Metropolitan Rd. in Felch, from 10 AM to 12 PM on Friday, October 10, 2025, with Pastor Lee Liverance officiating the funeral service at 12 PM. Burial will be in the Felch cemetery

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Daniel Lee Nurmi online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Cemetery Details

Felch Cemetery

Felch, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **10**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
W4703 Metropolitan Rd
Felch, MI 49831

Funeral Service

OCT **10**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
W4703 Metropolitan Rd
Felch, MI 49831

Tribute Wall

MD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mark Daniels - October 14, 2025 at 05:55 PM

JE

“ Our deepest condolences to Danny's family and friends.

James and Denise (Beckman) Engel - October 10, 2025 at 04:17 PM

DY

“ Dave and Pam Frendewey, New York purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Dave and Pam Frendewey, New York - October 09, 2025 at 12:09 PM

DY

“ Dave and Pam Frendewey, New York planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Dave and Pam Frendewey, New York - October 09, 2025 at 12:09 PM



“ i remember when we were teenagers and danny gave me a ride on his motorcycle from washburn to wakefield..i was terrified the whole time lol..so sorry for your loss..cheryll [holvick]and gordon moe

Cheryll Moe - October 08, 2025 at 11:46 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



October 08, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ Doug and Pete West purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Doug and Pete West - October 08, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ Doug and Pete West planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Doug and Pete West - October 08, 2025 at 09:13 AM

AB

“ Andy & Lexi Boussum purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Andy & Lexi Boussum - October 07, 2025 at 08:01 PM

AB

“ Andy & Lexi Boussum planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Andy & Lexi Boussum - October 07, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



October 07, 2025 at 12:55 PM

LH

“ Love, Dave and Wanda Holsworth purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Love, Dave and Wanda Holsworth - October 07, 2025 at 12:40 PM

DF

“ Dave, Sally, & family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Dave, Sally, & family - October 07, 2025 at 09:54 AM

DF

“ Dave, Sally, & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Dave, Sally, & family - October 07, 2025 at 09:54 AM

D.

“ Dan . purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Dan . - October 06, 2025 at 08:04 PM

D.

“ Dan . planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Dan . - October 06, 2025 at 08:04 PM

NA

“ Nancy A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Nancy A. - October 06, 2025 at 06:12 PM

C2

“ Class of 2005 purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Class of 2005 - October 06, 2025 at 04:06 PM

MW

“ Dan was the first person to call and ask me to be a substitute teacher when I retired from school administration in California and moved home in 2008. He told me he had to find out who the person was who had a Finnish name, and who lived in Sagola. That call led to a long-term substitute job at North Dickinson, a job with the DIISD, plus more substitute teaching, and a spot of the ISD Board. I will always appreciate his support and friendship. Marsha Wainio

Marsha Wainio - October 06, 2025 at 03:26 PM

DN

“ Dave N. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Dave N. - October 06, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.*



October 05, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

October 05, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.*



October 05, 2025 at 09:07 PM



“ *Jodi A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.*

Jodi A. - October 05, 2025 at 08:55 PM

DD

“ I had the honor of working with Dan when he was the principle at ND and I was a truancy/liaison officer. He was always a kind and caring man with the best interest of the students first. My sincere condolences to his family.

Derek Dixon - October 05, 2025 at 09:05 AM

JJ

“ Jim johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



Jim johnson - October 04, 2025 at 09:29 AM

JJ

“ Jim johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.

Jim johnson - October 04, 2025 at 09:29 AM

TF

“ The Stabile family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Daniel Lee "Paavo" Nurmi.



The Stabile family - October 03, 2025 at 06:58 PM

MO

“ To the family of Danny, 🇫🇮❤️ please know how much this community loved him!

So very sorry for your loss. Dan was such a good, kind, well respected and loved person. Please lean on the community now as you go through this difficult time.

We always enjoyed catching up with Dan at community events and the grand kids baseball games! As a family man he was so proud of you all.

His snowshoe making talent from his Uncle Elmer was unmatched!

Jeanne, it was clear to see Dan was your soulmate & your true love! So very sorry! Our hearts hurt for you. It was always so easy to see how much love the two of you shared! Two peas in a pod.

Seeing you two together was always such a pleasure and being able to visit a bonus.

Sending our deepest sympathies! ❤️

Duane Hongisto and Mary Oman

Mo - October 03, 2025 at 06:44 PM