



## Don Laitila

April 16, 1947 - April 16, 2006

Don Laitila

SPREAD EAGLE, Wis. - Don Laitila, 59, of Spread Eagle, died Sunday, April 16, 2006, at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital in Iron Mountain after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Bessemer on Feb. 16, 1947, son of the late Clarence and Miriam (Haanpaa) Laitila. He was a lifelong resident of the area. He served in the United States Air Force.

Don worked for We Energies as a hydro maintenance mechanic for many years. He married Sandie Paquette on May 28, 2005, at Grace Presbyterian Church in Sagola.

Don was a member of Grace Presbyterian Church in Sagola. He enjoyed hunting, music, traveling, collecting antiques and sports memorabilia. He was also an avid Packer and Brewer fan.

Don is survived by his wife, Sandie; children, Eric M. Laitila of Kingsford and Amy D. Laitila of Iron Mountain; children through marriage, Melissa (John) Ruzzicone of Appleton, Wis. and Larry (Jean) O'Dette of Iron Mountain; and grandchildren, Zoie Laitila, Anthony Ruzzicone and Jaimee and Ryan O'Dette. Visitation will be Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

The funeral service will follow on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Rev. Lee Liverance will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Dickinson County Cancer Unit and Loan Closet, the Florence County Rescue Squad, or any of our local hospice organizations.

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

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

# Tribute Wall

MP

“ Sandy,  
*I am so sorry about Donny. Hold on tightly to those who love you and loved him. Please know that I am holding you in my heart.*  
Sissy Pollard

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**Mary Ellen Pollard** - April 25, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with all of you. I went to school with Don and he was just such a nice guy.*

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**Sally Jo Wheeler Bailey** - April 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *sandy, my prayers and condolences go out to you and your family,i went to school with don,played baseball,bowled with him--a fantastic human being to say the least,we know that don is in a better place*

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**bob menza** - April 23, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *My thoughts and prayers have been with you all for the last couple of months. Don has been a very kind Uncle to me. Our families shared many good times when we were young. May God be with you in your time of healing. Look to him for strength and compassion. I am sorry I could not be there for you tonight. I have statutory obligations to be in my township for public testing for our election next month. You are all in my heart.*  
Love  
Kandy

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**Kandace (Curran) Tickler** - April 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *To the family of Don Laitala -  
I was one of the nurses that took care of Don when he was first  
diagnosed. I feel honored to have met him. We shared some good  
laughs on the night shift! My prayers are with you. -Deb*

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**Debbie Horton** - April 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WL

“ *My Prayers and condolences with all the family and many friends,*

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**Whitney Lessor** - April 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM