



Donald W. Antonetti

September 25, 1939 - November 22, 2024

Donald W. Antonetti, 85, of Iron Mountain, passed away peacefully in the early morning of Friday, November 22, 2024.

Donald was born on September 25, 1939, in Iron Mountain, Michigan, son of the late Alfred and Margaret (Caruso) Antonetti. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School as class president in 1957. He then attended Northern Michigan University where he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education. Don married the love of his life, Nancy Couveau, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Iron Mountain on June 8, 1963.

He began his teaching career at Vulcan High School where he also coached various sports, including a Class E U.P. State Championship team in cross country. Don then taught at Iron Mountain Public Schools for thirty-four years, focusing his career on drafting and math. Additionally, he taught night classes, where he shared his passion for woodworking.

For those who have had the privilege to know him, it can be agreed that whether he was in a classroom or not, Don was always teaching others. As a devout Catholic, his strong faith showed in the way he lived his daily life. He enjoyed bowling in his earlier years, hunting, trout fishing, and playing bocce—all passions that he passed on through years of lessons and traditions with his children, grandchildren, family, and friends. He also enjoyed playing golf

frequently with his good friend, Gale Tedeschi. He could often be found spending quality time with his family at Camp Antwa where he loved supervising projects with his sons and son-in-law that put his years of drafting and woodworking skills to use.

He and his wife, Nancy, enjoyed many years of travel and spending the winter months in Orlando, Florida, where they made countless memories with friends. He was a loyal and long suffering Detroit Lions fan, who now has the perfect seat to watch the Lions win the Super Bowl this year. He enjoyed playing smear with his fellow retired teachers and never saw a hand he could not bid on.

No matter where he was, laughter and Donald jokes were sure to be heard. Don was always bringing people together and was quick to make sure everyone felt welcome, and in moments when life was hard, he never complained and always prayed. To the very last days of his life, his family watched as he continued to remain steadfast in his faith. He lived his life in such a way that even as it was coming to an end, the legacy that he built, allowed others to continue being touched by who he was. The very last words he left us with on this earth were, "I'm free".

And so, as Mr. Antonetti's final lesson, we are taught that no test in life is too difficult to pass so long as you face it with kindness in your heart and unwavering faith.

He is survived by his sons, David Antonetti of Kingsford and Daniel (Konya) Antonetti of Reedsburg, WI; his daughter, Diane (Chris) Wilcox of Quinnesec; siblings, Joanne Schetter and Karen (Ron) Gendron; grandchildren, Stephanie (Austin) Lucas, Cammie (Josh) Bergman, Luke (Angelica) Antonetti, Tony Antonetti, Elizabeth Harrison and Ethan and Toby Wilcox; great-grandchildren, Josephine, Royce, Rosalie, and Koga; sisters-in-law,

Joan Witte, Jean Mosley, June Machus, Judy Valente, and Amy (Bill) Dale; brothers-in-law, Joseph (Sandy) Couveau and Jeff (Barbara) Couveau.

In addition to his parents, Donald was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Antonetti; his sister, Sharon, and brother-in-law, Gary Clifford; brothers-in-law, Gilbert Witte, Pete Machus, Skip Mosley, Gary Schetter, and Joseph Valente; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Janet and Bill Larch; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary and John Couveau.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Doctor Kristi Olson for her compassionate care over the last several years, as well as Optalis Health & Rehabilitation of Kingsford for their recent care.

Visitation will be from 8:00 am to 10:30 am on Friday, November 29th at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash funeral home in Iron Mountain. The Mass of Christian Burial will be officiated by Fr. Mark McQueston at 11:00 am at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Burial will take place at Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Cemetery Details

Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home
901 Carpenter Avenue
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-7676
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ So very sorry to hear about Don. Sincere sympathy to you all

Cynthia Corsi Gordon - December 08, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ I had Mr. Antonetti as my Drafting Teacher for 4 years in high school, I graduated in 1978. He was my favorite teacher and inspired me to get into the drafting as a career I started out in. I will always have so many fond memories of his classroom! May the entire Antonetti family find the the strength to get through their loss.....Bruce Aho

Bruce Aho - November 30, 2024 at 10:15 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald W. Antonetti.

November 29, 2024 at 10:15 AM



“ Our deepest sympathies with the loss of Don. He will be greatly missed. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers,

Sincerely, Timm, Mary, and Brooke Fornetti

Brooke Fornetti - November 28, 2024 at 10:10 PM

EW

“ *A good man. My favorite Teacher. Don made me feel good every time I was around him.*

Eddie Wicklund - November 28, 2024 at 09:33 AM

MP

“ *Dave, Dan, and family,*

Please accept my deepest sympathy in the loss of your father. I have fond memories of your parents. Your dad was my teacher when I took drafting in high school.

It's always difficult to lose someone you love and especially so near the holidays. May your memories bring you comfort. I will keep your dad and family in my prayers. May he rest in peace.

Melissa Porta - November 27, 2024 at 11:41 AM

JF

“ *Dear Antonetti family.*

I offer the greatest sympathy and condolences for the loss of Don. A good man! Loved him as a teacher and in later years how he took me “under his wing “ when I started at Iron Mountain school. A fine man ! We will continue to pray and keep Don and family in our thoughts. (Will miss him at the little church in Northland at deer hunting time)

*Sincerely
Jimmy and Winnie Fornetti*

Jim Fornetti - November 26, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald W. Antonetti.*



November 26, 2024 at 09:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald W. Antonetti.

November 26, 2024 at 09:20 AM



“ *My fondest will be memories of Mr. Antonetti at hunting camp, playing smear, and just as his obit states, laughing to the point of tears. What a joyous person and family to be around the last 40 years, always with a twist of sarcasm and wit! I am so blessed we were able spend time together just less than a month ago and will remember him always with years of memories. To the family, find comfort knowing he's in heaven back with the love of his life because of his strong faith and belief in Jesus Christ as his Savior. My and Diana's love and condolences to you all - Mark Kuckhahn*



Mark Kuckhahn - November 25, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Heartfelt Condolences to the family! Don & I graduated together & planned many class reunions throughout the years. He will be missed by all who knew him!💙*

Donna Mannigel - November 25, 2024 at 11:40 AM