



## Donald J. Baravetto

May 10, 1931 - December 5, 2019

Donald J. Baravetto, 88, of Iron Mountain, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at Dickinson County Healthcare System.

Don was born on May 10, 1931 in Iron Mountain, son of the late James and Rose (Andrini) Baravetto. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1950 and proudly served in the United States Navy for four years.

Don married Lola Sparapani on July 2, 1955 at St. Mary Queen of Peace Church. He worked for AT&T as a construction and engineering manager for 30 years, retiring in 1986.

He was a member of Immaculate Conception Church.

Don was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting deer; throughout his lifetime, he accomplished the admirable feat of harvesting exactly one hundred whitetail deer. He was a skilled dog trainer who enjoyed hunting rabbits with his beagles. Spending time at Camp Pottsville with his family and friends was time well spent. Trout fishing was another of Donald's lifelong passions, and anyone inquiring where he caught his latest limit were quick to hear him reply, "Never ask a trout fisherman where he got the trout because he will never tell you!" Lastly, gardening was a skill Donald mastered. Each

summer his garden produced plentiful fruits and vegetables, and he found great satisfaction in sharing his harvest with family and friends.

Don loved his three girls, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren were his pride and joy. He cherished his time with them, always sure to give a hug and a kiss, a gentle reminder of how much he loved each one of them.

Don was blessed with friends, too numerous to mention, and he cherished each and every one of them. He was a humble, generous man, always willing to help anyone in need. His greatest legacy was his generous gift of a college education to his eight grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Jimmy and a special cousin, John, and a step-grandson, Jason Maraccini.

Donald is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lola; his daughters, Pamela (Jack) Wallis and Paula (Steve) Gazza of Kingsford and Patti (Mike) Maloney of Clinton, MI; his grandchildren, Ben (Christine) Wallis and their children, Connor and Chloe, Brock (Alyssa) Wallis and their children, Talia, Eli and Lakyn, Katie (Rusty) Baker and their children, Marli and Reid, Alyssa (Justin) Schuelke and their daughter, Giana, Jessa (Blake) Everman, Krista (Brent) Buchcusi and their children, Jake and Baya, Allison (Maloney) Glasby and Rayce Maraccini (Jenna Steward); a step-granddaughter, Mel (Jerry Cazzolla) Gazza and her children, Lacey and Gage and his son, Braxton; step-grandsons, Nathan Gazza and Andy (Miranda) Gazza and their children, Audrina and Bella; his brother, Roger (Pat) Baravetto; his sister, Gail Baravetto; several nieces and nephews; and many special friends.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 13 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home. A Memorial Mass will follow at 1:00 P.M. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Msgr.

James Kaczmarek will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Don's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at <https://tinyurl.com/donbaravetto>

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Donald Baravetto 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

## Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

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

## Memorial Mass

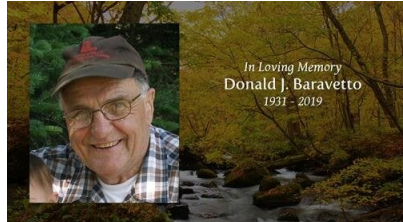
DEC 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



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



Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home - December 16, 2019 at 12:15 PM

DB

“ Don was a very special great Cousin and friend. We shared memories of visits as teenagers and throughout the yearly visits with him and his beautiful Wife Lola this past 30 years. Shared his great values of God, Family, Friends, His love of Nature, deer hunting and trout fishing. He will live forever in our hearts and prayers.  
Don & Anne Breitzman

Donald Breitzman - December 13, 2019 at 11:30 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald J. Baravetto.



December 12, 2019 at 04:40 PM

SF

“ *Bar was an amazing person and will be missed by all. One of the greatest from the greatest generation!* ”

Steve Feira - December 12, 2019 at 11:04 AM

JF

“ *My condolences and sympathy to all of Don's family. A great man! He will be missed!* ”

*Sincerely  
Jim Fornetti*

Jim Fornetti - December 11, 2019 at 10:34 PM

PR

“ *Pat Richtig lit a candle in memory of Donald J. Baravetto* ”



Pat Richtig - December 11, 2019 at 07:21 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald J. Baravetto.* ”



December 11, 2019 at 03:43 PM

MC

“ I am a cousin who has always lived in the Milwaukee Wisconsin area. I did not know Don as closely as many who were blessed to be his close friends. But, I always enjoyed seeing and talking to him at our family get-togethers. He had a unique charisma in the way he spoke and the way he carried himself. I particularly enjoyed his stories of his youth that he told to nearly 75 people at our Baravetto family reunion in 2018.

*To a life well lived...*

*Marty Coello*

---

**Marty Coello** - December 11, 2019 at 12:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald J. Baravetto.



---

December 11, 2019 at 10:36 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald J. Baravetto.



---

December 11, 2019 at 09:05 AM

RS

“ Rhonda And Jim Smith lit a candle in memory of Donald J. Baravetto



Rhonda and Jim Smith - December 10, 2019 at 12:33 PM

LB

“ My husband and I were so glad to visit with Don and Lola when they would come to Clinton Mich. he was a joy for us to have known him. Love Todd and Lynette

Lynette Buter - December 09, 2019 at 02:39 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Donald J. Baravetto.



December 09, 2019 at 09:16 AM

KF

“ Our cousin our hero we will miss you. Ken Fantelli.

Ken Fantelli - December 08, 2019 at 11:33 PM

MN

“ It's sad to see the passing of so many Sixth Street fixtures. Don and his family were some of the nicest people you could hope to meet, and Don was a proud "dago" to the core. My condolences to the family.

Michael Nokes - December 07, 2019 at 04:44 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Donald J. Baravetto.



December 07, 2019 at 11:44 AM

JT

“ Don was a friend and neighbor to five generations of our family. From my Nonno Giuseppe Oradei, my father Victor Oradei, me, my children ( especially Victor Terrizzi) and grand children ( especially Massimo and Marco Terrizzi. We shared a history and wonderful culture.

We will miss Don.

Judith Oradei Terrizzi

Judith Oradei Terrizzi - December 07, 2019 at 11:22 AM

CN

“ Our deepest sympathy. He was one of the sweet man I know. Our trips up north would not have been the same without going to to visit cousin Donald and his family. I send my love to all.

Cheryl ( Dati ) Neder - December 07, 2019 at 09:40 AM

CP

“ I'm proud to have had Donald as a great friend and mentor. He taught me about gardening, frying trout and pruning grape vines. A famous saying of his was "happy wife, happy life". So true my friend! God bless. Chuck Peterson.

---

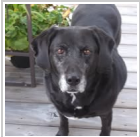
**Chuck Peterson** - December 07, 2019 at 09:16 AM

JG

“ So Sorry Donald has passed but he had a wonderful life and I have lots of good memories of him when I was a kid...He was always full of fun and very positive. His wonderful family lived next door to us and I still keep in touch with Dons sister Gail. We played together growing up on the North Side of Iron Mountain...I remember a Model A or T that he or brother Jim had...They would take us kids for a ride in it some times . God Bless....Joe Giannunzio, son of Joseph Fred Giannunzio and mother Bethel. Remember Goodbye" was taken from "God Be With You"!

---

**Joe Giannunzio** - December 07, 2019 at 03:16 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Donald's passing. He was a very kind man and he and the Baravetto family were wonderful friends to my Dad, Adolph (Pete) Bartolameolli and the Bartolameolli family. May your faith and fond memories of Don comfort you at this difficult time.

---

**Carol Bartolameolli** - December 07, 2019 at 12:46 AM

MF

“ Don used to grab Steve Feira, Neal Johnson, Tom Perk and myself and would draw out a potential hunting scenario. He would ask us various questions and he would expect the correct answer. He always told us “I taught you all you know but not everything I know!!”

*Awesome hunter but more importantly an awesome man*

*Mike Feira*

---

**Mike Feira** - December 06, 2019 at 10:03 PM

MA

“ My cousin Don was a very special person. He was such a loving, caring husband to Lola and he was so proud of his three daughters and grandchildren and great grandkids. I loved to hear from Don and we would reminisce about our growing up years and time spent with our grandparents. He was such a great outdoorsman hunting and going to “camp”! My brothers, Don and Jim, loved spending time with him not only as kids but in later years as well. In my husband was still living he would be telling me to say Don was the BEST trout fisherman there was 😊. There was so much love that came out of the Baravetto clan and he lived it every day!

*Memories will help all of us to get through this tough time. My thoughts and, especially prayers, are with his daughters and their families and especially to Gail and Roger, His siblings. ❤️❤️😊 Cousin Maxine Eddy*

---

**MaxineEddy** - December 06, 2019 at 08:21 PM

SA

“ Spent many days and nights as a kid growing up close to Don and Lola’s house. With three daughters, all the neighborhood boys were often found sitting on his front porch. Don was always kind and good to us, despite the trouble we once in awhile would cause. He often mentioned to me about the time I threw the boomerang by his house, and it came down and hit the neighbor’s new car. He always laughed at that but never forgot to remind me of that day. Rest In Peace, Don. Truly you were a fine man!  
Steve Altobelli

---

**Steven Altobelli** - December 06, 2019 at 07:07 PM

NJ

“ Bar was always quick to ask us questions ( what we called drilling us) Mike and Steve Feira, and me about where we were deer hunting, what post we were in, wind direction, and any signs. If we got any of the questions wrong, you had to pay the price of verbal scolding. Bar would be at a social gathering and you would see him circling around the room looking for us to ask those questions. At times we would try to avoid him and he would cut us off and say to us: I know what you G.D. guys are doing but I am smarter than you. We would laugh and get the questions asked and subsequent scolding because we were always hunting in the wrong spot. All I can say is that he was a true friend and I enjoyed every minute with him and even enjoyed the verbal scolding. You will never see another woodsman like Bar for the rest of you life. Loved the man like a father. Neal Johnson

---

**Neal Johnson** - December 06, 2019 at 02:59 PM