



## Donald "Don" Pedo

March 16, 1931 - March 16, 2026

Sometimes dreams do come true. Since the passing of Rose, his wife of 71 years, Don dreamed night after night about being back with her. Don was without a doubt a "good and faithful servant", a man who prayed the rosary daily and who lived his life keeping faith, family, and friends at the top of his priority list. So on his 95th birthday, March 16, 2026, God gave Don the best birthday gift ever -- a one-way ticket to Heaven. As hard as it was to see this wonderful man pass, it was impossible not to look beyond our sorrow and sense his eternal joy.

In addition to his wife and parents, Don was greeted by his loving daughter, Rosalie Bluekamp; his brothers, Bob Pedo and Roger Pedo; a sister, Rachel Struck; a brother-in-law, Joseph Priante; sister-in-laws, Alice (Dominic) Marchi, Lucy (Bill) Pataconi, Joyce (John) Chapman, Gloria (Kayo) Reese, Sue (Dick) Reath, and Janet (Marvin) Santini.

Don was born in Iron Mountain, MI, son of the late Louis and Rose (Bruno) Pedo. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1949 and from Michigan Tech in 1953 with a degree in civil engineering and as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He served his country in England at the Manston Air Force Base.

Don left a note for the family about his life. The following quote says it all ...  
"Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have given us more

love and pleasure than we can absorb, and our only wish is for all of them to experience the same in their future lives. We recommend only one thing for everyone to remember: Keep it simple, focus mainly on God and the love He had for all, and the rest will fall into place."

Don is survived by his daughter, Teresa (John) Fortier of Iron Mountain; his son, Louis Pedro of Big Bend, WI; a son-in-law, Doug Bluekamp of Iron Mountain; 4 grandchildren, Dana (Mike) Cook of Iron Mountain, Jenna (Todd) Buckley of Waterford, WI, Kyle (Jackie) Fortier of Iron Mountain, and Nathan Bluekamp of Iron Mountain; 10 great-grandchildren: Jana, Devin, Wesley, and Adalyn Cook; Vincent, Tessa, and Luke Buckley; and Dylan, Hadley, and Zeke Fortier; a brother, Jerry Pedro; and many nieces and nephews.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Evergreen Senior Living -- from the kitchen, maintenance, and housekeeping to all the special caregivers. He praised you every day.

As Don's age started to take its toll, we enlisted the help of OSF Hospice. There are no words to describe the difference their loving care made in all our lives. His OSF care team of Ashley, Dani, Erik, and Chaplain Jason was second to none. We are forever grateful to each of you.

Visitation will be held from 9 to 10:30 on Wednesday, March 25, at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. A Memorial Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Father Janusz Romanek will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

In lieu of flowers and because faith was the center of Don's world, donations may be made to St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in his memory.

Condolences to the family of Donald may be expressed online at [www.ernashf](http://www.ernashf)

[uneralhomes.com](http://uneralhomes.com)

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **25**. 9:00 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/>

## Memorial Mass

MAR **25**. 11:00 AM.

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church

# Tribute Wall

“ Don Pedo Self-Biography (Page1)

- 1953: Graduate of Michigan Tech with Civil Engineering degree
- 1953 Fall – 1956 Spring: 2nd then 1st Lieutenant – U.S. Manston Air Force Base, England
- 1956 – 1957: Sales Engineer, Ladish Co., Cudahy, Wisconsin
- 1957 – 1959: Assistant City Engineer, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 1959: Assistant City Engineer, Oak Creek, Wisconsin
- 1960: City Manager, Iron River, Michigan
- 1961 – 1966: City Engineer & Director of Public Works, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 1966 – 1968: Sales Engineer, Waukesha Pipe, Waukesha, Wisconsin
- 1968 – 1974: Vice President, Cathlina Construction Co., Brookfield, Wisconsin
- 1974-1992: Vice President, L&W Construction Co., Brookfield, Wisconsin
- 1992 – 1996: Self-Employed/Semi-Retired. Iron Mountain, Michigan
- 1996-2018: Semi-Retired, Self-Employed at Bacco Construction Co., Iron Mountain, Michigan

*We both graduated from IMHS in 1949. Dad went to college at Michigan Tech and graduated in 1953 with a degree in Civil Engineering and as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.*

*Prior to our graduation, in August 1952, we were married at I.C. Church in Iron Mountain. We were the only two classmates to marry – ironically, however, we never dated while we were in High School...*

*Dad finally got his call to Active Duty in the Fall of 1953 to Manston Air Force Base in England 80 miles east of London near the White Cliffs of Dover. Mom joined him there shortly after and we spent the*

*next two years there where Dad was serving in various engineering duties on this former R.A.F. Airbase. Mom meanwhile experienced life like a regular English household since we lived in a typical English Townhouse in an average neighborhood. We even got a dog for a pet – a boxer pup named “Misty Moon”.*

*We returned to The States in 1956 on a military troop ship with some “rough” seas on the way but good memories of the last two years – especially the friendships we had.*

*Dad found work in the Municipal Engineering field and eventually became City Engineer/Director of Public Works for the Coty of South Milwaukee, Wisc (Pop. 25,000) until 1966 when he decided to make a career move from government work to the private sector. Actually, in the middle of this ten-year span (in 1960) an attempt was made to return to the U.P. by taking a job as City Manager of Iron River, Mi – Bad politics resulted in resignation after 11 months. The incident was covered in a small news article in a Milwaukee paper which was seen by the Mayor of South Milwaukee (where Dad had recently served as Assistant City Engineer) and the mayor called to offer him the job as City Engineer which he started one week later!*

*Six years later, in late 1966 and for the next 26 years Dad served as Vice President of two construction firms – first in Sewer/Water Construction and finally Road Construction/Asphalt Paving. This time was spent living in a new home in Waukesha, WI and it was here where our three children attended and graduated High School.*

*Finally in 1992, we decided it was time to fulfill our dream of retiring and returning to Iron Mountain while Dad’s Mother was still living as well as sisters, brothers, and other close relatives in both families – not to mention the fact that Teresa and Rosalie had already moved there (in anticipation of our eventual retirement).*

*Leaving the Milwaukee Area was difficult because after 36 years we had made numerous close friendships and had spent, up till then,*

*the best years of our lives, both socially and career-wise. In fact, they were years we would not trade for anything.*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:24 PM

LP

*Written by Dad, re-typed by me to share! EnJoY!*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:25 PM

LP

*Our plan now was for Dad's to "semi-retire" and set up a Consulting Engineer office which he did for about 4 years. Then an opening came along to perform private work bidding and construction for Bacco Const. Co. which he has been doing ever since. It has proven to be an ideal situation because it was a part-time commitment in a field, he was well qualified for while being enjoyable from the standpoint that he always valued his interaction with different people over the years. It also allowed time for a couple rounds of golf every week.*

*The above briefly tells the story of our early life together as dictated by the need to work to make a living and we both agree that it was mostly and enjoyable and rewarding "trip".*

*But along the way we had to address a larger issue in our need to "make a life" as a family. Thanks to our wonderful parents and the way they raised us, our goals – although never discussed as "goals" – were clear and uncompromised from the start. Our emphasis was to be on three things only – God, Family, and Friends.*

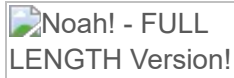
*It was our luck to be raised in a typical Old Italian Family where Father was a strict "King" and Mother was a loving, church-going, terrific cook and Family "Beacon" – in addition to a supporting cast of Grandparents, Siblings, Uncles, Aunts, Neighbors and Family Friends. Our "goals" then became obvious, simple and achievable. The "simplicity" aspect only requires commitment on our part to reach that goal and obtain its rewards – and rewarded we have been!!!*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:26 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the album *Need to Smile ? : )*

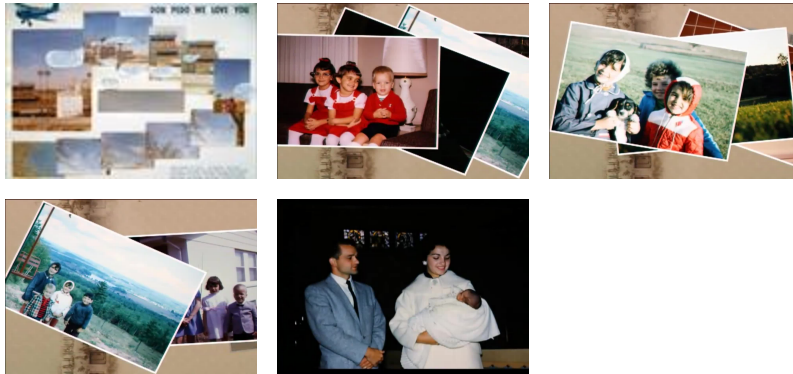
Noah! - FULL LENGTH Version!

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:21 PM

LP

“ 6 files added to the album *Family Album*



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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:15 PM

DT

“ *Dr Timothy Thometz lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Pedo*



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**Dr Timothy Thometz** - March 25 at 09:57 AM

DT

*Life is a precious gift and your father lived it to its fullest potential! May God's grace be with your family during this difficult time.*

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**Dr Timothy Thometz** - March 25 at 09:59 AM

LP

“ 2 files added to the album Need to Smile ? : )

Noah - You and Me, Lord!

The Last Blast of the Blasted Bugler

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**Lou Pedo** - March 24 at 10:24 AM

LP

*Some of Dad's many favorite comedic remedies for what ails you!*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 24 at 10:27 AM

KM

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers to Don's family. He was friends with my parents June and Ralph. Every time I was in town and went to church with my parents he would greet us with "Hey Paisan". Always with a smile. May he rest in peace. Kathy Izzo Maynard.*

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**kathy izzo maynard** - March 23 at 10:33 PM

JF

“ *Jodie, Suzi, Skip & families purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald "Don" Pedo.*



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**Jodie, Suzi, Skip & families** - March 23 at 12:30 PM

MO

“ When I heard that famous laugh nearby, I knew my day was just going to be better.

*When he "listened" to your story with a smile on his face...yup, I knew my day was already better!*

*When he would sing my heart would be happy and my day most certainly better!*

*Whenever Don (aka: Speedo) was around everything was just "better", his kindness, sense of humor, generosity, faith, never wavering sincereness was genuine and rare and for that I am grateful to have known him.*

*So many fond memories run thru my mind at this time of this sweet, kind, man, fun times of him enjoying Fortissimo wine, and of climbing the steps at Pine Mountain until he was well into his 80's, helping the Golden K's decorate a semi trailer so they could ride in the 4th of July parade, like seriously ....who else could sport a white cardboard hat with a RWB band and make it look snazzy! Memories of us trading our winter hats at the ski jumps just for fun! I smile when I recall Don lining up his papers so perfectly on his desk before leaving for the day, that must have been the Air Force training in him. I recall secretly shooting rubber bands at Don when he wasn't looking and hearing him announce either "it's rainingggg, or DIRECT HIT" lol, he was a treasure and I am blessed to have known him. Thank you to his family for sharing this amazing man, I am so happy to have these treasured memories.*

*Now in heaven, Don is surrounded by those who were there to greet him with warm and loving arms, especially his beloved wife Rose that he always loved so deeply.*

*To the entire family of the Speedster, please accept our deepest sympathies and lean on your memories and amazing times you had with him, his love for all of you was so very strong and ran deep. His*

*pride of family was evident when ever I visited with him either in person or on the phone he always SO HIGHLY of each of you!*

*Sending great big hugs and a toast of Fortissimo, Mary Oman and Duane Hongisto*

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**MO** - March 23 at 10:36 AM

TF

“ Thomas, Larsson, Santoni, Pipp families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald "Don" Pedo.



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**Thomas, Larsson, Santoni, Pipp families** - March 21 at 07:59 AM

TF

“ Thomas, Larsson, Santoni, Pipp families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald "Don" Pedo.

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**Thomas, Larsson, Santoni, Pipp families** - March 21 at 07:59 AM

MU

“ Uncle Don and Auntie Rose were just like grandparents to me growing up. I have the best memories of spending time with them at their house in Waukesha. We made pizzelles and played lots of games (Yahtzee and Kings in the Corner). Even after they moved back to Michigan, I always looked forward to seeing them when we visited with my grandpa, Kayo Reese. They were so fun and full of life and love! Uncle Don will be deeply missed, but I am grateful he is now reunited with Auntie Rose and his family in heaven. I know my Dad will be happy to see him. Rest well, Uncle Don. You deserve eternal happiness.

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**Megan Reese U'Sellis** - March 20 at 07:52 PM

AR

“ I know Don or "Uncle Don" is enjoying all his family up in heaven even though we'll miss him down here. I hope he's already caught up with Louis and Kayo Reese probably talking about sports or golf. I'll always remember spending time at Uncle Don and Aunt Rose house in Waukesha as a kid and our dinner gatherings with my parents and Kayo Reese at Michael's Italian restaurant in Waukesha. My other memories with Uncle Don was as a teenager and young adult playing lots of golf, our foursome was Kayo and Louis Reese, Uncle Don and myself.

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**Anthony L Reese** - March 20 at 06:07 PM

LP

“ 82 files added to the album Family Album



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**LoU PeDo** - March 20 at 03:20 PM

LP

*Please EnJoY these photos & SHARE yours too! DaD LOVED his camera - so without his effort, none of this would be possible. Feel SO BLESSED to be able to share with you, all in his memory and genuine LOVE of our Lord, this world and of LiFe! Smile and the world smiles back at you !!! LoVe YoU PaL - always !*

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**LoU PeDo** - March 20 at 03:58 PM

DC

*Sometimes you change people's lives in ways you never know.*

*Twenty six years ago Don and Rose sold their house on the Menominee River to Drema and I. At the time someone else put a bid on the house that was slightly more than our offer. Don told the realtor we want to sell it to Dennis and Drema because they'll take care of it and be happier there. That was Don. Every time we ran into him we told him so. Living on the River changed our lives forever and yes Don we've taken care of it.*

*Rest in peace Don,*

*ps I'm still finding old golf balls on the property that you hit into the woods. 😂*

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**Dennis Charette** - March 21 at 12:46 PM

## Dad Eulogy

*Thank you for allowing me time to share some of Dad's wisdom and favorite stories with you...*

*I always knew this day would eventually come – just never wanted it to arrive – and of ALL days, on his 95th Birthday too – I know! Chances have to be 1 in a million or more probably, just like Dad – one in a million! And I mean that literally – he has so much LOVE for this world, for others, for God... all his life's priorities in order – always! You would never hear him complain even though we knew better, but he always believed in positivity, not confiding how he may really feel to not burden us with his worries! That was Dad – the rock!*

*If you couldn't tell, Dad loves photography so please be sure to view his skills here and online at his memorial page... and it's only a very small fraction. Gpa Louie was his inspiration, with their 3D slide camera – it was cool! And when I say photography, most people today think (do selfie pose) yeah... NO! You would first load film, set up on tripod, aim the desired frame, hit the timer, RUN into pose – you have 5 seconds! – WaLa! Yeah, not done yet... then you have to develop the film, make prints – AND THEN, 2 weeks LATER, you finally get to see if your efforts and skills paid off or not. God forbid if the film was exposed to light or the development process went awry!*

*Photography allows you the ability be aware of the world in a whole new perspective: in awe of ALL its beauty and in wonder to what you may see next... like a child seeing things for the very first time! You become more aware of the environment around you, looking for visually photo worthy sights, the picture worth the effort, the framing, balance, perspective to draw the eye in... if only a moment, in your mind, but a true skill and blessing to have learned and loved!*

*Throughout his life, he was always SO humble, not a boisterous bell ringing out hey look at me, look what I did or what I have... Well, I take that back... I remember the ol' 1974 Toyota Corolla he had painted up bright bumble bee yellow with two big black racing stripes down it !?! At the time I was 10 maybe.... we were driving in downtown Waukesha on Wisconsin Ave. in the Toyota and we came to a red stoplight. He leans over towards me and says slyly – watch this!?! Had NO idea what he was talking about as I could barely see over the dash. Looking over I saw a Nova with half its engine sticking out the hood stopped next to us. Dad proceeds to roll his window down, puts the Toyota in neutral and revs the snot out of those little 2 cylinders! The teens eventually look over thinking what's the heck's that noise and begin to laugh*

*hysterically, pointing... When the light turned green, the Nova shot off like a cannon, screeching tires smoking, rear end swerving – Cool, I thought to myself! ...as Dad is now laughing hysterically still sitting there, puts it into gear and slowly rolls away... I was obviously too young to understand the humor. One of MANY of Dad's "joke grenades"...*

*We were the FIRST family on the block to buy a General Electric riding lawn mower! It was cool at first, because I did most of the mowing, but as time went on, and batteries died, it would take TWO DAYS to mow our acre lawn. I know Dad was trying to do his part to save our environment because we didn't own a Toyota nor an electric mower just to launch MORE joke grenades – yes, he had his fun with the bumble bee paint... but he knew the reality then of what we all know now.*

*Dad led by setting an EXAMPLE!!! NOT telling you what you should or shouldn't do, not preaching however he believed – rather, just watch - follow my lead. Family and friends would begin making changes – – even neighbors bought electric mowers too! He is an inspiration – to ME and to everyone who knows and loves him!*

*I'm sure if Dad were here, he would prefer us all laughing, celebrating, rejoicing in life and all the many MANY memories and the impact he had - on ALL our lives – truly a blessing!*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:29 PM

LP

*He loved his Green Bay Packers and attending games! If you haven't already, take a look at the picture framed "Don Pedro We Love You"... his buddies decided to rent out the ad space on airplane that would buzz the stadium. All because Dad complained that the idea was annoying, stupid, you name it – he thought it was a silly idea! The trap was set! They hid a cassette recorder and taped his reaction in the stadium as the plane flew by and he read – "Don Pedro We Love You??? Who the, what the..." and rest is comedic history! He never laughed SO hard and had the very BEST group of friends who loved him deeply!*

*Dad loved going to Packer games, bowling, of course as we all know - golf - and he loved his cars! Accelerating over hills that would make your stomach rise up and get airborne... how many times we drove back and forth on Strawberry Lane in the Kettle Moraine on sunny Sunday afternoons... we would do laps, back and forth... even on the way up to IM, the hills around Crivitz were his favorite part of the journey. Until he got pulled over with Terese in his lap driving... although the officer didn't see that part, he sure liked to spread all the fun whenever and wherever possible!*

*I was 4 maybe at the time, and we were driving Mom's car to the farm for milk & butter during winter, fishtailing at every corner as Dad always did! Eventually all this fun ends up into a snowbank – stuck! Rosalie got to "drive" as Dad was out pushing as hard as he could! Not budging... thought HEY, let ME try! I had previously burned my finger on the cigarette lighter AND also put this particular car in neutral and rolled it down the driveway into a tree!!! Ahhh, no! We were pulled out eventually by the farmer's tractor thankfully. Dad heeded the words to us, Do NOT tell MoM! (even though we were gone over an hour!) Why not – this was FUN I thought !!! ???*

*When he worked at L&W he was having our family station wagon repaired by the shop's mechanic and got to drive the boss's Mercedes Convertible home! Bright and YELLOW - just as he liked it! Promised us kids a ride after dinner... LoL- YuP! Yeah, Mom didn't go thankfully... Going down Hwy 59 and breakneck speeds, we're all screaming with our hands in the air, no seatbelts on... woo wooing! Crazy fun Dad was!!*

*How many eMails he sent of funny, or wisdom inspiring etc... I started saving them for future reads... over 530 sent since 2015! Almost 50 per year! Non-stop, never a lull in the flood... I would call him every Sunday to watch America's Funniest Home Videos – I knew he would LOVE and he did. Rosalie tried to get him to enjoy Everybody Loves Raymond, but at the time, any show with audience laughter – not funny! But he eventually tuned in and did not stop watching that*

*wonderful show since! Dad sure LOVED to laugh and to spread the joy!*

*And the story Dad loved to tell was when we lived on Cherry Street in South Milwaukee... I was 2 maybe at the time... across the street, down a couple houses lived The Crusher! He was a famous local wrestler known for da claw (demonstrate) and these shows would air locally on Sunday mornings – WHY that day? Anyways, it was a Sunday evening, neighbors across the street from him were having a party... Dad sees The Crusher come out of his house and looks upset – he yells from his driveway, “Hey, turn the music down – my kids are trying to sleep – school’s tomorrow!” Thinking someone musta heard him, he stomps back into his house and slams the door! Well, music didn’t get turned down and knew it would soon be go time! About 5 minutes later, here comes The Crusher, stomping mad! Not saying a word he marches straight across the street, picks up the record player in the driveway, raises it above his head and smashes it to the ground into little pieces! As the stunned crowd stared at him, he said, “I told you to turn the music down, my kids hafta sleep!”*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:30 PM

LP

*Nobody was moving, still in shock – and all you could hear were footsteps stomps in silence as the Crusher cursed to himself then slammed the door... Dad could not believe what he just saw!*

*He was our bright shining star in this foggy dark world... Mr. Positivity. If his leg was falling off, he'd reply, "I'm fine!"... Never swore, or rarely ever, never said a bad word about anyone nor anything, never complained, was always smiling or trying to put a smile on your face, \* always with the humor, (\*do thumb slide) having fun, making the best out of ANY situation, regardless of how bad it may be...*

*The moral of the story is to be true to yourself. If you put God, ALL others, THEN yourself as your priorities, in that order, the rest WILL fall into place. Have compassion for others, don't judge them, put yourself in their shoes and how you would feel – have the ability to view from other perspectives respectfully – right or wrong.*

*Dad tries the best he can to be the pulpit for the Lord's work, not by telling you, but by humbly guiding you – setting the path, the "grenade" to go off when you say AH HA!, he WAS right!!! God is with AND withIN us all – just take a moment to have peace to hear that call! LISTEN!*

*Love that man dearly and will miss my Pal, my rock, my destiny! I wish I could be half the man he was but I surely know the way now! Thanks be to you Dad, for the endless wisdom you have given us! For the inspiration you have shown us... for being who you are Dad – One in a Million!!!*

*... and at EVERY meal we had at the Pedo house, after grace and before we ate, we would all begin to sing the Amen song – will you join in with me & Dad...*

*I'm sharing my written Eulogy to Dad for those who could not attend and for the long version... had to keep it short at funeral unfortunately...*

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**Lou Pedo** - March 31 at 03:33 PM