



## Donald M. Edens Jr.

September 29, 1945 - December 15, 2015

Donald M. "Donnie" Edens, Jr., 70, of Kingsford, passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, WI.

Donnie was born on September 29, 1945 in Norway, MI, the eldest son of Donald Sr. and Dorothy (Marchetti) Edens. He attended the American Martyrs Parochial School until the eighth grade then went to Kingsford High School, graduating with the Class of 1963. While in high school, Donnie was a Flivver star athlete, playing varsity football as a sophomore, becoming team captain, and lettering in basketball, baseball, football and track. He was an All U.P. Running Back of the Year and was a first team All-State Football selection. In track he was a renowned "dash man" and relay runner, being on a record breaking relay team when KHS was first in the U.P. meet at Marquette in 1963. Donnie was offered college scholarships in football and baseball and choose to attend Northern Michigan University on a football scholarship, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Donnie married his high school sweetheart, Pamela Person, on August 27, 1966 at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. They celebrated nearly 50 years of marriage and are the proud parents of two sons, one daughter-in-law, and two beautiful granddaughters which were the "apples of grandpa's eye". Don's passion, after family and God, was sports. He taught in Goodman, WI, at Kingsford Middle School where he became Vice Principal and at Kingsford High School where he served as an administrator and the Athletic Director.

Throughout his career, Don continued his education, eventually obtaining his Master's Degree in Administration. Don coached varsity football, basketball & track and Babe Ruth Baseball. Don's other activities throughout life included boy scouts, being an altar boy, Eucharistic minister and lector at American Martyrs Church, and was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, and the Elks Club. He was inducted into the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame. Don especially enjoyed spending time at camp with his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Pam; two sons, Steven Philip (Tracey) Edens and Mark Donald Edens; granddaughters, Kirstin Mackenzie and Madison Elizabeth; his parents Donald and Dorothy Edens; sisters, Mary (Donald) Lee and Sally Klingelhutz; brothers, Mark (Val) Edens and Bill (LuAnn) Edens and a sister-in-law, Diane Person Schumacher. Don is also survived by numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his father and mother-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Person and a brother-in-law and cribbage partner, Rick Klingelhutz.

Visitation will be from 4:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will be held on Friday at 11:00am at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Kingsford. Fr. Joseph Gouin will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Interment will be in Cemetery Park.

Pallbearers will be Chris Hofer, Dan Short, Doug Roberts, Andy Wiltzius, Bob Usitalo, Terry Brown, Dick Berlinski, Roy Brown, Dan Flynn and Dwight, Pat & Mike Romagnoli.

Honorary pallbearers will be Roger LeDuc, Carl Lemin, Dick Maule, Roger Scott & Bob Gianunzio.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Donald Edens, Jr. online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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

# Cemetery Details

## Cemetery Park

101 Cedar Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

American Martyrs Catholic Church  
908 W. Sagola Ave.  
Kingsford, MI 49802

# Tribute Wall

KL

“ Pam and family;  
It is with sadness that I heard about Don's passing. My deepest sympathy to you during this difficult time. Your friend and classmate.  
Kathy-Lange Sheehy

---

**Kathy Lange-Sheehy** - December 23, 2015 at 07:36 PM

MS

“ Mrs. Edens, Mark and Steve,  
So sorry to hear about Don. He was a great person and Kingsfordian. He will be sadly missed throughout the community.  
Take care and God Bless.

---

**Mike Sommerfeld** - December 23, 2015 at 09:33 AM

TF

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to you in your time of loss. You're all in our thoughts and prayers.

---

**Timm, Mary, and Brooke Fornetti** - December 18, 2015 at 11:11 PM

LA

“ You have our sincere sympathy, although we were unable to attend the services as Len had surgery this Tuesday, our thoughts and prayers are with you, Pam, and your family. This news does not seem real as we haven't kept in close touch for so long.  
Len and Arlene Trudeau

---

**Len and Arlene** - December 18, 2015 at 08:41 PM

LT

“ Len & Arlene Trudeau sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.



Len & Arlene Trudeau - December 18, 2015 at 08:33 PM

MR

“ It was and is a privilege to have Mr./Coach Edens as part of my life memories through sports and education, both student and fellow educator. There are a lot of memories I could share like him showing his moves on the field and his getting the name of dancing Don by the defensive unit (Greg Daniels, Don Maule, Mike Church, etc.), beating Escanaba that year breaking their 23-0 win streak was something treasured I think by both of us. Later on in life I came back as a substitute teacher hoping and praying that someday I would be working fulltime. Coach Edens is one of those that played a role in my life and I thank God for placing him in my path. May God Bless you all during this very emotional time.  
Mark Rose

Mark Rose - December 18, 2015 at 03:58 PM

KC

“ Mrs Edens, Mark and Steve, So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kammi Cavalieri - December 18, 2015 at 10:20 AM

BJ

“ Pam and the entire Edens family:

*So sorry to hear about the passing of Don. My sincere condolences to all of you.*

*Bob Johnson  
The Daily News*

---

**Bob Johnson** - December 18, 2015 at 10:01 AM

KS

“ Pam, Steve and Mark, Mr & Mrs Edens and family,

*Many fond memories of Don through out my life. May your memories help heal your broken hearts. He was a good man and liked by all. KHS Class of 88 also send their condolences.*

---

**Kellie Secrist Sexton** - December 18, 2015 at 09:07 AM

RC

“ My condolence and sympathy to the Eden's family.

---

**Rob Cascioli** - December 17, 2015 at 11:49 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald M. Edens Jr..



---

December 17, 2015 at 11:21 PM

CL

“ My deepest sympathy to Don's family and loved ones. He was a wonderful man who contributed so much to others. His legend will live on for sure! God bless you all. Sincerely, Cheri LaPointe-Dupras

Cheri LaPointe-Dupras - December 17, 2015 at 11:06 PM

LA

“ Luke, Abbey, Grace & Austin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald M. Edens Jr..



Luke, Abbey, Grace & Austin - December 17, 2015 at 10:51 PM

JJ

“ Jason Julian lit a candle in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.



Jason Julian - December 17, 2015 at 09:48 PM

CF

“ My deepest sympathy to the Edens family - Mr. Edens touched so many lives during his time at KHS, his legacy will live on for generations. He was always so kind, treating his students with respect, which taught us the true meaning of kindness and respect to pass on and on. May he rest in peace and may God bless you during this difficult time.

Carol Famiani  
KHS Class of 83

Carol Famiani - December 17, 2015 at 09:44 PM

GZ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Eden's family during this difficult time. Thanks for sharing coach with us...I'll especially miss his readings at Church on Sundays.  
Guy Zablocki

---

**Guy Zablocki** - December 17, 2015 at 09:42 PM

JR

“ Dear Pam and family; Please accept our sincere condolences on Don's passing. I had the "pleasure" of playing FB against Don when he was running the ball for the Flivvers. I can still remember how difficult it was to bring him down. When I watch Eddie Lacey and the Packers I am reminded of the type of runner Don was.



Pat and Jack Richtig...IMHS '62

---

**Jack Richtig** - December 17, 2015 at 07:33 PM

CV

“ Mr Edens was a wonderful man. He was someone that I looked up to. He was a true role model and treated me fantastic. He had a huge influence on me. He will surely be missed. You're in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

---

**Curtis VanDusen** - December 17, 2015 at 07:32 PM

MP

“ *Mr. Edens was one of my favorite teachers at KJHS -- he even made math fun! But more important, he made all of the students feel special. He had a personality that brought so many students to his home room after school where we all sat and talked for hours sometimes. He took that kind of time for middle school kids and we all idolized him for his quick humor and kindness. I will always remember Mr. Edens, he was such a positive influence on many of us.*

---

**Mary Rondeau Pacchini** - December 17, 2015 at 06:17 PM

KR

“ *Pam and family,  
I am sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. Edens. May memories ease the pain of your loss. His impact lives on in so many lives that he touched over the years - mine included. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Kirstin Collins Rose** - December 17, 2015 at 06:00 PM

LD

“ *My deepest condolences. Coach Edens cared for you as a person as well as an athlete.. Will always be grateful for that*

---

**LEE DAVIS** - December 17, 2015 at 05:31 PM

BA

“ *To the Eden's family we would like to give our deepest condolences as it just doesn't seem like time has passed like it has . I can still remember all the sport and teaching contact i had with Don and brother Bill , he will be always in my mind and in our hearts .*

*Brian and Cheryl Adams*

---

**Brian Adams** - December 17, 2015 at 04:48 PM

TG

“ Although as a Mountaineer I never got to play for Coach Edens I always had the utmost respect for him and admired all his accomplishments. Your wisdom and guidance will be missed.

Tom Giachino  
Iron Mountain Class of 1981

---

Tom Giachino - December 17, 2015 at 03:34 PM



“ Very sorry to hear this news. One of the nicest, most caring, and most helpful people I've ever known. The community benefited a lot from his efforts, most notably the U.P. Track meet being held in Kingsford. He was the key to getting that going. I'm honored and blessed to have known him.

Steven Allis

---

Steven Allis - December 17, 2015 at 02:09 PM

PK

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



---

Paula & Al Kaiman - December 17, 2015 at 02:04 PM

PK

*"Heartspirit Light from Vermont to Moon Lake and beyond."*

---

Paula & Al Kaiman - December 17, 2015 at 02:52 PM

MP

“ I have so many fond memories of Coach Edens as he coached me over the years in football, basketball, and baseball. Even though I have not been back to Kingsford much over the past 30 years, I still think of him often. Thanks for the memories, he will be missed and may he rest in peace. -Mike Parkinson

---

**Mike Parkinson** - December 17, 2015 at 01:28 PM

KU

“ Thinking of the Edens family at this difficult time. Sending you love and peace from Minnesota.

*Don meant a lot to my Dad and our family. I will always remember his humor, smile and his willingness to always lend a helping hand. He will be missed and loved always.*

*Kelly and Kim Usitalo*

---

**Kelly Usitalo** - December 17, 2015 at 01:02 PM

TR

“ I am going to miss Don so much. He was a very special man and extremely supportive, generous and always made you feel better about yourself. The whole Edens family holds a special place in my heart.

*Love,  
Terrie*

---

**Terrie Rugg** - December 17, 2015 at 12:57 PM

PK

“ *Paula & Al Kaiman sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.*



---

**Paula & Al Kaiman** - December 17, 2015 at 12:49 PM

PK

*Being around Don (as student, player, friend, or family) his innate goodness and rock-solid caring ways -- all embedded in an understated but 'tuned-in' sense of humor -- made him a memorable and truly rare kind of person. The kind of person one really does take inspiration from as we take our turn trying to do our best throughout life. Over the years we've placed 'memory companions' such as lilacs or other perennials on our property for family and friends who have finished their earthly journey and, in that vein, we'll be lighting the 'HeartSpirit' display in our old farm field each evening for Don and family (to view, click photo tab, above). From Vermont to Moon Lake and beyond ... with love, cousin Al (and Paula) Kaiman*

---

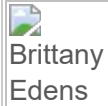
**Paula & Al Kaiman** - December 17, 2015 at 01:57 PM

KM

*Sorry to hear this. I am a former KHS student and lived directly across the lake from Mr. Edens. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Kathy (Ring) Meyers*

---

**Kathy Meyers** - December 18, 2015 at 05:08 PM



“ Earlier this year I got to visit Michigan for the first time. We went to camp and it was a tick on Adrian's neck; Uncle Donnie reassured us it wasn't a deer tick. He said that deer ticks caused Lyme disease and that there were a ton at Uncle Bill's house. We went there the next day 😬lol ( no bites)

*Sending love from GA  
- Brittany, Paul, & Adrian*

---

**Brittany Edens** - December 17, 2015 at 11:58 AM

PH

“ Mr. Edens was my math teacher. He was always very patient and entertaining. My sympathy goes out to his family. -Patty Hooper

---

**Patty Hooper** - December 17, 2015 at 10:19 AM

PH

“ Paula Uren Hilbert lit a candle in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.



---

**Paula Uren Hilbert** - December 17, 2015 at 10:12 AM

MF

“ Mary, Mike, Megan and Frances purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald M. Edens Jr..



---

**Mary, Mike, Megan and Frances** - December 17, 2015 at 09:37 AM

TG

“ To the Eden's family, my sincere sympathy and prayers for you during this time of sadness and grieving.

*Coach this one is for you, "Unbalanced line, option left on set, break!"*

*Todd Gayan*

---

**Todd Gayan** - December 17, 2015 at 09:25 AM

AU

“ Don was a Teacher, Coach and Mentor to me for much of my Life, when you were around him, his presence was indescribable, he certainly will be missed.

*Al Unger*

---

**Alan Unger** - December 17, 2015 at 09:11 AM

JM

“ My absolute favorite place throughout my childhood was Uncle Donnie's cottage on Moon Lake. I have fond memories and so much love for those summers. I love and miss you, Uncle Donnie.

*Here is a post I wrote about the cottage in 2012. <http://betheink.com/2012/07/the-summer-cottage/>*

*-Jessie Edens McCrary*

---

**Jessie McCrary** - December 17, 2015 at 08:57 AM

SC

“ Great football coach! Always provided positive feedback and encouragement! Helped us win the GNC crown back in 1969!

---

**Stephen Cavalieri** - December 17, 2015 at 08:37 AM

TA

“ Terry Awrey lit a candle in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.



---

**Terry Awrey** - December 17, 2015 at 08:24 AM

MC

“ To the Edens family.  
I didn't know Don personally but knew well his accomplishments in the community and his commitment to kids. May he rest in peace in God's loving arms and may you all find comfort in God's peace. Bless you all at this time of loss and always.



*Mary Couper*

---

**Mary Couper** - December 17, 2015 at 07:00 AM

MF

*Dear Pam & all the family members, you have our deepest sympathy. So sorry to read of your loss. Sending prayers your way. God Bless.  
Mary & Jerry Flaminio*

---

**mary Flaminio** - December 18, 2015 at 12:44 AM

BP

“ A great man, coach and teacher. He will be missed.

*Brad Phillips*

---

**Brad Phillips** - December 16, 2015 at 10:08 PM

RR

“ *Mr Edens was a kind, caring teacher who always treated us with great respect. He had a sense of humor and was a favorite among many students. Please know I am keeping all of you in my prayers.*  
*Randee Richard Oleniczak*

---

**Randee Richard** - December 16, 2015 at 07:26 PM

RR

“ *Randee Richard lit a candle in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.*



---

**Randee Richard** - December 16, 2015 at 07:22 PM

JH

“ *well donnie, i have always enjoyed the memories when you helped me work on a knuckle ball at 14 years old and we went on to have 2 great seasons in babe ruth baseball. you were a great catcher. love ya buddy, john heric.*

---

**john heric** - December 16, 2015 at 06:38 PM

WW

“ *Wendy Welch lit a candle in memory of Donald M. Edens Jr.*



---

**Wendy Welch** - December 16, 2015 at 06:06 PM

WW

“ *Dear Edens Family - our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May God Bless you and strengthen you. Don was my favorite teacher in Jr. High. He was a wonderful man and a great mentor. We will miss him dearly. Wendy Welch*

---

**Wendy Welch** - December 16, 2015 at 06:06 PM