



## Donald Paul Nurmela

May 11, 1957 - March 29, 2024

Donald Paul Nurmela, 66, of Kingsford, MI, passed away on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.

Don was born on May 11, 1957, to Peter and Gladys (Nopola) Nurmela in Marquette, MI. He was raised in Ishpeming, MI, with his four siblings: Dave, Catherine, Steven, and Jim. He graduated from Ishpeming High School in 1975 and went on to attend Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI, where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1980.

Don married Marsha Carlyon in 1977, and they shared a forever kind of love that has been an example to all around them. Once married Don and Marsha lived in Houghton, MI, while Don finished his schooling before they moved to Alabama where Don started his career in the paper industry with Champion International. They welcomed their first child, Bradley, shortly before moving to Kingsford where they resided until the present time. Two years later, they welcomed Brenda, and their family was complete. Don continued his career in the paper industry until his retirement in 2017, though he contracted work as a project manager during outages until 2023.

Don had many hobbies including woodworking, photography, hunting, sewing, boating, reading, and fishing. He loved to cook, try new recipes, make meals on the Traeger, and grill. He lived life with a sort of curiosity that left no page

unturned. His family never really knew exactly what he would be up to next, but they always knew it would be an adventure where lessons would be learned and there would be stories to tell.

He loved spending time at his hunting camp in Randville and a shared family cottage in Negaunee. Many hours were spent in his blind, practicing rifle shooting and archery, and pulling kids water skiing or tubing. He believed in others and encouraged them to do things that they didn't think they could do and loved watching them succeed. His love of these places was emphasized when he got to share them with his favorite people: his wife, his kids, their spouses, and his five grandchildren.

Don's faith in Jesus was of utmost importance to him. He spent many years serving on Cursillo teams and serving in the church. Nothing else lit him up like people finding the Lord for the first time. He felt privileged to be a part of that journey for others, to be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth.

Don was a family man. At most gatherings he could be found at the kids' table or on the floor playing with his kids, nieces, nephews, or grandkids. He wasn't a fan of gossip and found dwelling on negative things to be a waste of time. He was a Finlander through and through, so he was not interested in small talk and long goodbyes. He was someone who would prefer to delve into ideas and the reasons behind why things worked the way they did. He always wanted to do better and be the best version of himself.

Don will be missed more than words can express. As a family, we find comfort in knowing he is with his Lord and that we will see him again. He was an organ donor, and as his last act here on earth he was able to give others hope and the gift of life. His kidneys were successfully transplanted to two different recipients, and his eyes will be used for transplantation as well.

The family would like to thank our local EMT providers, Kingsford Public Safety, Marshfield Medical Center – Dickinson Emergency Department, the St. Vincent ICU team, and the UW Organ and Tissue Donation Team for their excellent care of Don in his final days.

Don is survived by his wife, Marsha; a son, Bradley (Whitney) Nurmela of Wisconsin Rapids, WI; a daughter, Brenda (Jacob) Husing of Eagle River, WI; his grandchildren, Amelia Husing, James Donald (JD) Husing, Alexis Husing, Audrey Husing and Charlotte Nurmela; his siblings, Dave (Betsy) Nurmela, Catherine (Sandra) Nurmela, Steven (Deanna) Nurmela, and Jim (Beverly) Nurmela; Marsha's siblings, Den (Peggy) Carlyon, Bruce (Martha) Carlyon, Larry Carlyon and Dean (Carol) Carlyon; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Preceding Don in death were his parents, Peter and Gladys (Nopola) Nurmela, and his grandparents, Eino and Emma (Hutula) Nurmela and Urho and Elsa (Saari) Nopola.

Visitation will be held from 8:30 am – 11:00 am on Saturday, April 13th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. A service will be held at 11:00 am with a luncheon to follow. Pastor Steven Cowen will be officiating the service and Pastor Ryan Flunker will give the message.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Donald Nurmela 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

APR 13. 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Funeral Service

APR 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Bryan S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Paul Nurmela.

Bryan S. - April 12, 2024 at 12:43 PM

KF

“ Katie Strafaccia & Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donald Paul Nurmela.



Katie Strafaccia & Family - April 12, 2024 at 08:42 AM

RW

“ Ryan and April Weber purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald Paul Nurmela.



Ryan and April Weber - April 09, 2024 at 09:18 PM

DO

“ Marsha and family,  
I am so sorry to read about Don's passing. I still have the cross from him from my cursillo. His love for Jesus definitely shined to all those he met. I am blessed to have known him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
Gods Peace,  
Debbie Oberdorfer

Debbie Oberdorfer - April 09, 2024 at 06:27 PM

WF

“ *With love, The Blain & Jamo Families purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Donald Paul Nurmela.*



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**With love, The Blain & Jamo Families** - April 09, 2024 at 05:25 PM

MW

“ *Marsha, Brad and Brenda:*

*We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Don. Remembering the days following Cursillo I still have the cross that he made for me. I remember how he learned to play the bass guitar so he could join our beautiful group Life-Song sharing the word of God. I can picture Jesus at the gate saying "Welcome Home " my faithful servant. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Love,*

*Mike and Margaret  
Wilcox*



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**Michael Wilcox** - April 08, 2024 at 05:03 PM

MB

“ *Marsha, I still have the cross Don made and gave to us when I made my Cursillo. You were both so influential in my new walk with Christ! So very sorry for your loss and your family’s loss. I will never forget the impact you both had on my life!*

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**Marie Krause Blank** - April 08, 2024 at 02:42 PM

MP

“ *Marsha and Family:*

*I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Don. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this very difficult time.*

*My Sympathy,*

*Mary Pepin*

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**Mary J Pepin** - April 06, 2024 at 09:32 PM



DO

“ *Dave, I was so sorry to hear about Don. Please extend my condolences to the rest of the family. And thanks to your father, God rest his soul, I became to be known to Don as Dougie Ditch.*

*Doug Oja*

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**DOUGLAS OJA** - April 06, 2024 at 07:12 PM



S(

“ First I want to express my deepest sadness at the loss of my cousin. Donnie was born a day before me. Growing up it was no secret to some, that I had a little crush on my cousin. When he was turning 11 on the 11th of May, I sent him a birthday card with this cheesy poem. “I see your golden birthday’s here, and mine is coming just next year.” It’s no surprise I didn’t get a response, but I’m sure he got enough razzing from his brothers. I have great memories visiting with the Nurmela family at the camp, and when they would stop over our house when they would come down to the Wisconsin State Fair. Many years later I would attend his wedding. The last time I got to see Donnie, was at a Fourth of July gather at the camp. I told Donnie I was never on a jet ski and asked if he would give me a ride. Well, being the loving cousin that he was, he didn’t hesitate to give me the ride of my life, lol. Thanks for the memories! See you again someday! Love, your cousin Sharon (Hovila) Winter

Sharon (Hovila)Winter - April 06, 2024 at 05:29 PM

TS

“ Thinking of you all, Brad & Sam purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Donald Paul Nurmela.



Thinking of you all, Brad & Sam - April 06, 2024 at 10:42 AM

KK

“ Our hearts are with you. We’ve known Don since he was Donnie. His obituary captured perfectly who he is. May his memory give you strength. Kerry and Nathan

Kerry Korpi - April 06, 2024 at 07:29 AM

CP

“ We feel blessed to have had our time together with Don. He was such a great friend. We are thankful that our daughter and granddaughter are a part of such a wonderful family. We will miss Don with all our heart.

With love

Craig and Sue



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**Craig and Sue Pascoe** - April 06, 2024 at 04:26 AM

WS

“ Dear Family, With great sorrow I am sending my deepest condolences to all of you. Cousin Donnie will be missed by all of us. I will remember all the great times we shared at all the family gatherings at the Camp and other activities. You are all in my prayers. Bill Seppanen

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**WILLIAM C SEPPANEN** - April 05, 2024 at 08:29 PM

KT

“ Marsha & families,  
Sending our deepest sympathy during this difficult time.  
He will be missed by all who knew him.

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**Ken & Trudy** - April 05, 2024 at 08:03 PM

LM

“ *Marsha, Brad, Brenda & Families*

*So sorry for your loss! Don will be deeply missed. God Bless you all!*

*Jim, Lori, Brad Machus and Kim Newbold*

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**Lori k Machus** - April 05, 2024 at 01:46 PM

AS

“ *Here's how I remember Donny - Bleach blonde hair always happy to pull kids behind jet boat and then evening transition to cigar and multiple fishing poles!!! Rest of the time working on some project at the camp.*

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**Amit Sahrawat** - April 05, 2024 at 01:05 PM