



Donald A. Tavonatti

January 17, 1926 - September 14, 2025

Donald A. Tavonatti, 99, of Kingsford passed away Sunday, September 14, 2025, at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain.

Don was born January 17, 1926, in Iron Mountain, MI, son of the late Emanuel and Minnie (Pataconi) Tavonatti. After serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he was honorably discharged and worked for Maracini Cabinets, Gust K. Newberg Construction Co., and later set stones for Norway Granite & Marble. Don married Evelyn Michaud on March 31, 1962.

A lifelong resident of the area, he loved being in the woods, hunting and fishing, and feeding the birds in his yard. He also enjoyed spending his mornings at Storheims with his friends.

Don is survived by his wife, Evelyn; his son, Jeffrey Tavonatti of Kingsford, MI; and daughter, Christine (Bruce) Nelson of Portland, OR; a brother, Richard Tavonatti of Florida; and a granddaughter, Christy Nelson.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a sister, Violet Balducci, and a sister-in-law, Ethel Tavonatti.

A private family graveside service will be held at Quinnesec Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Donald A. Tavonatti online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall



“ Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donald A. Tavonatti



Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home - September 24, 2025 at 09:38 AM

TT

“ Don was such hardworking and yet gentle man, who for my son and I, was a source of kindness and laughter. To my son, he was more than a friend; he was a stand in grandfather. For 30 years, he showed us what it means to be a person who gives so freely of their heart.

He was the kindest soul, always ready with a helping hand or a listening ear. And of course, he was a teller of a many “bad jokes”, the kind that would make us groan, and still put a smile on everyone's face. He taught us that kindness, patience, and a good sense of humor are the most valuable things in life.

Anu and I send our love and condolences to you Eve and Jeffrey.
Rest in Gods love and Comfort Don.

T Taylor - September 20, 2025 at 09:03 PM

GB

“ Evelyn and Jeffrey I am so very saddened by the loss of Don. I was blessed to know him all this years as well as knowing the both of you.

Gail Butrymowicz - September 18, 2025 at 08:18 PM

JT



Jeff Tavonatti - September 19, 2025 at 01:19 AM

DP

Evelyn and Jeffrey I am so very saddened by the loss of Don. I was blessed to recently catch up with you both, after being out of touch for so many years. I am praying for you both as you work through your loss.

Dwight Pataconi

Dwight Pataconi - September 19, 2025 at 07:03 AM

JA

“ *When I was young, I spent 100's of afternoons at their home, 1000's of hours, ate countless meals there, always delicious too ! When we grew up we knew everybody's parents, all nice people, but Jeff had the Best Parents of all of us in the neighborhood, it felt like home, and Jeff definitely had the Best Dad ! I still wonder today how he trained the Bird(s) to land on his finger when he called them with a chirp or whistle, almost like he spoke Bird, Best friends Dad I ever knew, Jeff's Dad ! So many good memories of Jeff's house, I'll never forget them, or Him , and Potato pancakes with apple sauce on them, the place said private service when I called today, so I'm sending Prayers & Thanks to you and your Mom , thanks for all the good memories ! I'm a better person today because of your family, Thank You for that*

joel aichner - September 18, 2025 at 12:12 PM

JT

Thank you so much Joel . So nice of you to say those things ❤️

Jeff Tavonatti - September 18, 2025 at 06:30 PM