



Donna M. Van Holla

September 9, 1939 - June 23, 2024

Donna Marie Van Holla, 84, of Iron Mountain passed away Sunday, June 23, 2024, at Marshfield Medical Center - Dickinson.

Donna was born September 9, 1939, in Ironwood, MI, daughter of the late Wilho and Florence (Swanson) Oja. She graduated from A.D. Johnston High School in Bessemer, MI in 1957 before earning her Bachelor's of Education from the University of Wisconsin - Superior (formerly Wisconsin State University - Superior) in 1961. Donna married Kenneth Van Holla on June 27, 1959, at Zion National Lutheran Church in Ironwood. Her career in education started in the Crystal Falls School District. She transferred to the Iron Mountain School District in 1966 where she spent the next 28 years teaching primarily geometry and Algebra II at the high school. Throughout her career, Donna furthered her education and earned her master's degree from Northern Michigan University. She also was the Debate and HI-Q Coach for many years. Donna was a member of First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. She loved playing bridge and earned the distinction of Lifetime Master Bridge Player by the American Contract Bridge League. Donna was an excellent cook and enjoyed traveling and trips to the casino. Most of all, she loved spending time with all of the family and attending her children and grandchildren's activities as often as possible.

Donna is survived by her husband of nearly 65 years, Ken; three children, Kim

(Greg) Serba of Gilbert, AZ and Iron Mountain, Amy Hayes of Grand Rapids, MI and Dr. David (Julie) Van Holla of Iron Mountain; seven grandchildren, Dr. Kenny (Dr. Amanda) Hayes and their children Franklin and Lucy, Blake (Amber) Hayes, Jaki Hayes, Khloe Hayes, Ada, Jeffrey and Donna Van Holla; a sister, Sandra "Sandy" (Ret. Col. Gerald) Felix and their children, Melanie and Ali; a sister-in-law, Harriet Hallquist and her children, Wayne Hallquist, Susan (Steven) Pachulski; and Nancy (Mike) Karim; nephews, Michael (Terri) Betlewski and David (Katie) Betlewski; a niece, Rochelle "Shelly" Berwald; and many close family members who frequently visit.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her mother and father-in-law, Ada and Onnie Hardy; her father-in-law, Harold Van Holla; a sister-in-law, Betty (Edward) Betlewski; a brother-in-law, Roland Hallquist; nephews, Jeffrey Betlewski and Bill Berwald; and many beloved aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. A Memorial Service will follow at 12:00 noon at the funeral home. Rev. Bryan Laurila will officiate. Interment will be in Dickinson County Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in her memory.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Donna M. Van Holla online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (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 Service

AUG 3. 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donna M. Van Holla



Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home - August 05, 2024 at 12:41 PM

BP

“ I had the great privilege of having both Ken and Donna as teachers in Iron Mountain. I'm so sad to hear of Donna's passing. Mrs. van Holla was always incredibly patient and encouraging as a teacher and she left an indelible mark on my life. She took time to tutor me between classes or on the phone and there were several times she would drive me home from school on really cold days. She was an inspirational teacher, a helpful Hi-Q coach and mentor, and a generous person. She helped build my confidence as a student and encouraged me to pursue my academic and professional dreams. My thoughts are with Mr. Van Holla and the entire family.

Sincerely,
Bill Pugh
IMHS Class of '86

Bill Pugh - August 02, 2024 at 09:31 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donna M. Van Holla.



August 01, 2024 at 10:57 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the Van Holla family. I had the pleasure of having both Van Hollas as teachers in Iron Mountain. Two memories stick out in my mind with Mrs. Van Holla as my teacher:

1. "Prove it" - she was able to make students critically think and reason statements they made. It carried through well beyond the math courses she taught (logic and philosophy)!
2. She encouraged me to become a math teacher - I didn't plan on becoming one and do not serve in the role now, but I did teach high school math for five years - in two countries and briefly at IMHS. I definitely saw her pedagogical style as a model in my own teaching. I can say she was the most challenging math teacher in my experience, and she made me a better math student (and teacher) because of it!

She will be missed--

Nick Fleury - June 28, 2024 at 04:05 PM



My condolences to the VanHolla family I had Mr VanHolla for 5th grade and Mrs for math in high school and David was wonderful for my son on a professional level my son still mentions him again I'm sorry for your loss may god help you all through this trying time 🙏 Rest In peace mrs v

Sincerely,
Heidi Dumke Lehto

Heidi lehto - June 28, 2024 at 05:45 PM