



Douglas P. Kujala

November 21, 1941 - November 4, 2023

Douglas Paul Kujala, 81, of Quinnesec, peacefully passed away at his home on Saturday, November 4th, 2023.

Doug was born on November 21, 1941, in Escanaba, to Leslie and Elma (Wainio) Kujala. He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1960 and proudly served in the US Army from 1962 to 1966. Doug pursued a career as a truck driver, just like his father. In 1989, he realized his dream of owning his own trucking company, KSR Trucking Co., managing it until 2010. Even well into his 70s, Doug continued to drive trucks for various companies before retiring at home, always accompanied by his cherished companion, Sisu. Doug had a heart as vast as the open road he often traveled, making him an incredibly kind, caring, forgiving, and generous soul with a touch of that characteristic stubborn Finnish attitude-SISU. He was the family jokester, always ready with a witty remark to bring a smile to the faces of those around him. His generosity knew no bounds, and he was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Doug lived life on his terms, and his determination was matched only by his unwavering love for his family, friends, and his dogs. In our memories, Doug will forever be remembered as a man who journeyed through life with a sense of purpose, a loving heart, a hearty sense of humor, boundless forgiveness, and an enduring love for his favorite pastimes – we all knew his favorite color was chrome.

Doug is survived by his 4 beloved children, Shelly (Joey) Buch, Stacy Bottesi, Shawn (Brandi) Kujala, and Starr (Greg) Russell; brothers: Conrad Kujala, Jack (Diane) Kujala, and Jeffrey (Patty) Kujala; sisters, Nancy (John) D'Amour, Jean VanWinkle, Linda (Brad) Ross and Cathy (Mark) Swenski; grandchildren, Paul (Jaci), Patrick (Heather), Brianna, Renee, Marinda, Jaden, Ethan, Amelia, Olivia, and Abby; great-grandchildren, Trever, Aubriella, Brynna, Carsten, Maeve, and Wesley; and many, many nieces, and nephews.

Doug was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanne (Paque) Kujala; an infant son, Steven Kujala; his parents, Leslie and Elma Kujala; his stepmother, Charlotte Kujala; brothers, Wayne Kujala, Steven Kujala, Theodore Kujala, Michael Kujala, and infant brother, Richard; sister, Fay Lemke; sisters-in-law, Joan Kujala, and Pamela Kujala; brother-in-law, Gary Lemke; nephews, Lucas VanWinkle, Thomas Kujala and Cory Lemke; and great nephew, Owen Ellis.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 from noon until 2:00pm at the First Covenant Church in Iron Mountain. A memorial service will follow at 2:00 pm at the church. Rev. Chad Harrison will officiate. Burial will be in the Quinnesec Cemetery. The Uren-Cooper-Johnson American Legion Post 50 will conduct full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established.

Condolences to the family of Doug Kujala may be expressed online at www.erickson-rochon-nash.com.

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

Cemetery Details

Quinnesec Cemetery

Menominee Street
Quinnesec, MI 49876

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Covenant Church
125 East H Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Memorial Service

NOV 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Covenant Church
125 East H Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Douglas P. Kujala.*



November 10, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Douglas P. Kujala.*



November 09, 2023 at 06:12 PM

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“ Doug was one of a kind....when I first leased my truck on to ksr I didn't have very much faith in the truck as it was really old and not much was known about it... when I was ready for my first load I chose something short just to test the waters..worried it might break down on me..... Doug walked up to me, put his arm around my shoulder, looked at me and then the truck and said clint...if it's gonna break...its gonna break out there not close to home, you might as well try to make more in the process... but the way he said it... I knew what he was really saying was....don't worry, we've got you...we'll get you going if you break...and he never did in all the yrs I worked for ksr...he never left me hanging...

Doug was one of the kindest and nicest people I've ever known and although it has been years since I have talked to anyone...all my memories of ksr and Doug and Shaun are all good ones and I believe I'm a better person because of them.... I learned alot from Doug and I know alot of other drivers did too....

I wish I could make the service but I'm almost certain I won't be able to, so I wanted to share this little bit and let you all know that you are all are in my thoughts and prayers.....take care and God bless

Clinton Fletcher

Clinton Fletcher - November 07, 2023 at 11:25 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Douglas P. Kujala.



November 07, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Douglas P. Kujala.*



November 07, 2023 at 08:50 AM



“ *Shelly and Stacy and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Lots of fun memories having sleepovers in his trucks when we were kids. He was a wonderful and kind man and will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Diane Lange (Iron Mountain)*

diane lange - November 07, 2023 at 06:04 AM



Thank you Diane ❤️

Shelly Buch - November 07, 2023 at 08:58 AM



“ *Our sympathies to the entire family in the loss of Doug. A long time cousin, and friend. Elaine and Ron Kaminen, Littleton, Colorado.*

Ronald Kaminen - November 06, 2023 at 09:50 PM



Thank you cousin ❤️

Shelly Buch - November 07, 2023 at 08:59 AM