



## Evelyn Santini

January 26, 2009

IRON MOUNTAIN - Evelyn L. Santini, a lifelong resident of Iron Mountain, died on Monday, January 26, 2009. She was one month short of her 95th birthday.

Evelyn was born in Iron Mountain on February 25, 1914, to Alberto and Lucia Santoni and was baptized, educated and married in Iron Mountain. Evelyn lived on Kimberly Avenue for nearly seventy years, until she moved to Victorian Pines in 2007. She graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1932, and for years Evelyn organized the many reunions of the Class of '32. She worked as deputy county clerk until her marriage to John Santini when she had to resign since, at that time, married women were not allowed to hold a government position.

On April 24, 1935, Evelyn Santoni married John Santini in a wedding service performed by Fr. Jani at the Immaculate Conception Church, a marriage that lasted over 65 years until John's death in 2001.

Evelyn began working at Colenso's Inc. in 1952, eventually rising from clerk to manager of the women's departments. Later she became the clothing buyer for the Colenso's Store, traveling each year to New York, Chicago and Minneapolis to choose new clothes for the ladies' department. She was adept at finding all types of clothing that would suit her customers and, for many,

acted as personal shopper. She retired after 26 years.

Not only did Evelyn know what fashion best suited a customer, she also loved to wear beautiful clothes. She always dressed with flair and style. On a recent Bocce Club Sponsored Mexican cruise with her son, Joe, and his wife, Ellie, Evelyn wore some of her classic dinner dresses and was the fashion hit of the cruise.

Evelyn was an active member of many civic, religious and business organizations, including the Business and Professional Women's Club, which honored her as Woman of the Year in 1992. She also was active in the Iron Mountain Kingsford Women's Club, Knights of Columbus Auxiliary and the United Commercial Travelers Auxiliary. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella for more than 65 years. Evelyn was a longtime parishioner of Ss. Mary and Joseph Church.

As one of the founding members of the Iron Mountain Paisano Club, she researched the background information of Italian immigrants who settled in this area. These names were placed in a time capsule by the Iron Mountain Centennial Committee in 1979. She served as vice president and was on the board of directors. Evelyn was honored as "Paisano of the Year" in 1991.

Evelyn Santini was a wonderful Italian cook. She made all pasta by hand, using her beloved three-foot rolling pin; her specialty was her "macaroni". She loved to cook for a crowd, prepared multiple dishes ahead to stock her freezer, and often hosted crowds with traditional multi-course meals. She generously shared plates and bowls of pasta with her friends and neighbors. Evelyn also made a delicious version of the UP staple, the beef pasty, learned from a Cornish neighbor on the North Side. She loved to fill the freezers of her children with these many dishes when she visited their homes. She passed her skills on to the next generations, who continue to serve and enjoy

"Nona's" Italian meals.

Evelyn fulfilled a dream when she traveled to France and Italy, meeting in Rome with her first cousins, relatives of her mother. Evelyn spoke flawless Italian, learned from her mother and father. She had no difficulty getting around Rome and shopping in its boutiques.

Evelyn was predeceased by her late husband, John A. Santini, and by two sisters, Eva Santoni and Vera Santoni VanImmerseel Staples. Evelyn is survived by her brother, Evo Santoni, and her sister, Iris Santoni Hillenbrand, and by her children Joseph (Eleanor) Santini, Lucia Santini (James) Smith and James (Susan) Santini. She is also survived by grandchildren Ann Santini (Jim) Ruf, Gregory (Julie) Santini, Matthew (Kimberly) Smith, Aaron (Amy) Smith, Rachel Smith (Christopher) Busby, Alicia Santini and Sarah Santini, and by fourteen great-grandchildren: Marco and Christina Santini, Cary and Claire Ruf, Asher, Brennan, Regan, Aaron, Summer, Owen, Isabel and Henry Smith and Kate and Anna Busby. Last, she is mourned by multitudes who ate at her table, received bowls of macaroni and loved her.

Visitation will be held Sunday, February 1, 2009 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home, Iron Mountain. Parish prayers will be offered at 5:30 p.m. and the Daughters of Isabella will recite the rosary at 6:00 p.m. There will be a time of sharing stories and memories of Evelyn following the prayer service.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, February 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home, and at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary & St. Joseph Church. Burial will be in Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain. Evelyn's grandchildren will carry her to her final rest.

Memorial donations may be made to The Caring House, a domestic violence shelter in Iron Mountain at 1305 S. Prospect Ave. Iron Mountain, MI 49801.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Evelyn Santini 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 funeral arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ To Evelyn's family---I did not really KNOW your Mom, but I always thought she was SO classy! The obit. was wonderful. Bless you all.

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**christine spigarelli** - March 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Lucy and family-I was so sorry to hear about the passing of your dear Mom. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. I lost my Mom a few months ago and it is hard. Mothers are special. Thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

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**Jackie Hallman** - February 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ February 1, 2009

*For Aunty Evelyn,*

*For 30 years, we exchanged Christmas cards; I had no idea who you really were... Signed Aunty Evelyn and Uncle John... when he passed, Jim was smart enough to take our youngest son Garrett to Iron Mtn. for Uncle Johnny's funeral and introduce him to his extended family...*

*Years continued, now it was only Aunty Evelyn signing the card, and finally, we were able to be in Denver the same time she annually visited Jimmy and Susan. I looked so forward to meeting her, and gorge myself on her macaroni and gravy. Little did I know, when Jimmy & Susan's door opened, and her standing there, stunningly beautiful, I'd just fall in love with her. The evening continued, stories poured out, I was shocked we'd waited so long to connect! Each year, we tried to get in some Aunty Evelyn time...She brought such life and color to what had been familiar names...And connecting with Jimmy & Susan, is such a gift; I hope will continue for many, many years to come....Ahhhh family, not ever to be taken for granted ....*

*For Garrett to dance with her at Paul's wedding, and Jim and I to have the honor of driving her home to Michigan and spend a weekend with her, complete with a formal Sunday dinner, albums full of photographs and more stories...*

*She will always be such an inspiration to me of a life well-lived. So involved in her family, her community, and Life. We will miss her terribly, but her memory will be with us always!*

*Thank You, Aunty Evelyn, we'll miss you!*

*Salli, Jim, Chason & Garrett Russell*

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**salli russell** - February 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *To the family of Evelyn Santini you have our deepest sympathy. Dick and I enjoyed our visit with her last summer. She looked absolutely beautiful and was in great spirits. It is a lovely way to remember her. May her soul rest in peace. God Bless!*

*Chris (Santini) & Dick Ferrando*

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**Chris Ferrando** - February 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Santini Family. I am a member of Florian Santini's family and will always remember Aunt Evelyn as a strong presence at many a family party in Hurley. We all have vivid memories of those childhood events.*

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**Melissa Santini** - February 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Evelyn was my great aunt and our family's link to the rich Italian heritage that came from my mother's side of the family (Ann Russell Dickinson). I have such wonderful memories of Evelyn and Johnny coming for all the Dickinson kid's high school graduations in St. Paul, Minnesota. Evelyn would make her famous macaroni and gravy while Johnny watched the kitchen to make sure no one threw away any of her meatballs--which, of course, never happened! Evelyn wouldn't cook in our kitchen until she rewashed all the pots and pans--who knew they could get so clean?! The last time she came to Minnesota she gave us a lively cooking class and came with us to our son Sam's confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Paul--it was lovely to have her there for that occasion. She looked amazing and was full of life. She was inspirational in her energy and purpose and she will be greatly missed. Evelyn's family will be in our thoughts and prayers and we wish we could be in Michigan for the funeral.

-Lisa (Dickinson), Mike, Sam, and Maria Michaux

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**Lisa Dickinson Michaux** - February 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Lucy and Jim,  
Please add our thoughts and prayers to you , Joe, and Jim for your Mom. Even though I did not formally meet your mother, I feel I know some of what she was made up of. And in you, Lucy, I see the very same qualities.  
In reading her write up here, it seems we never seem to inquire more about our families than ourselves. In seeing you and Jim at the last two reunions and your obvious enjoyment of our time together, I wonder what more we could find out about each other than to ask about our family history and not ourselves. Our little town has so many gems unrealized.  
Looking forward to seeing you and Jim in person in 2010. Until then, here is a great big hug to you from us.  
Jim Tiderman  
1960 Classmate.

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**Jim Tiderman** - January 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A(

“ My mom, Eleanor(Santini)Fehring loved Evelyn and John so much. She was a real lady in many ways. I just received a Christmas note from her this week and how happy she was at her new home. Her obituary is a real tribute to her. My two sisters and I have lived away from the Santini family all of our lives and have missed many occasions. A couple years we did come to Hurley for a Santini reunion and that was a wonderful time for all of us. My sympathy to the family.

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**Anne (Fehring)Witowski** - January 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Evelyn will be greatly missed and my sympathy goes out to everyone close to her. I will never forget her coming over teach us the proper way to cook. Today I will go to Notre Dame here in Paris and light a candle for her.

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**Sam Michaux** - January 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ To all of you, but Lucia and Joe I know, we extend out most sincere condolence and sympathy. Its tough to lose mom and pops and tough for the rest of us when we also knew them. I'm especially sorry I wont be at the service to see you all personally. Dennis Raho Family

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**Dennis W. Raho Family, classmate** - January 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ To all of Evelyn's family, our sincere sympathy goes out to you as you mourn the passing of a dear woman. We know you will be celebrating her wonderful life lived to the fullest over these next few days. We were fortunate to have been served some of her delicious food at Lucy and Jim's table on a number of occasions, and what a treat that was! Much love to all of you. Peggy & Vic

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**Peggy and Vic Ptasznik** - January 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dear Lucy,Joe and Family,

We are so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. Please accept our deepest sympathy.

Jim and Barbara Corsi

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**James Corsi** - January 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

M1

“ Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. Coming from an Italian background, I can appreciate how much Mom means, even to we very grown-up kids.

Michael Bergagnini classmate 1960 - January 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

S1

“ I am so sorry about the passing of your mother. I just saw you Saturday and we chatted on how your mom was doing. My condolences and sympathies to you and your family. I know how hard loosing a mother is. May God bless you, and I send my prayers.

Sharon (Khoury) Swanson...Classmate 1960 - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Gandma Santini was a very wonderful woman and brought into this world some very wonderful children. I feel very fortunate to have met her and to have Joe as my Step Dad. And now that she's moved upstairs she can be with everyone all the time. Good bye Grandma, we're all going to miss you very much. Tom, Nick and Tom

Tom Dolan family - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ My deepest sympathy to you all. We, too, lost our mother a year ago and know how difficult it was. Take care.

Cynthia Corsi-Gordon - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Much time has passed since the last time we had the pleasure of your company. But each time I make your recipe for homemade ravioli and red sauce it's as if you're not far away. My stepfather, Joe, is the most wonderful man and we are so incredibly fortunate to have him, which I'm certain is due to your incredible influence as a parent. I'm sure Grandpa Santini is thrilled to have you back in his arms as you start your new journey in Heaven. Until we meet again.

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**Susan Dolan Kish** - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ Sorry to hear of Evelyn's passing. Enjoyed seeing her on Sunday mornings at church where we would catch up on each others family's. She will be missed by many. I am currently visiting my daughter in California or I would attend the services. Take comfort in knowing that she's now with her Lord and Savior.

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**Betty Neldberg** - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A6

“ I offer to you my sympathy from Dubai where I am spending the winter. I will keep your mother and your family in my prayers. Mothers and Grandmothers are irreplaceable which makes their passing so difficult to bare. I read her obituary in the Daily News via the internet. What a tribute to a very special woman.

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**Al Gironimi (Class of 60)** - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I am a daughter of Eleanor Santini Fehring and we always lived so far away from our northern relatives that we missed being around the family. I met Evelyn and heard so many wonderful things about her from my mother. She will be missed.

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**Mary Scott** - January 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ I only met Evelyn once at Pat Santini's wedding. My mom, Eleanor Fehring Santini, thought so much of her and John. I wish we could have met more of the Santini family as we grew up.

*I loved reading her obituary. Evelyn sounded like a wonderful, outgoing, and fun woman. What great memories. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate her life.*

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**Maggie Diaz (Fehring) Eleanor's daughter** - January 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ TO JOE AND LUCY AND FAMILIES,

*OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES ON THE LOSS OF YOUR MOM.  
SHE WAS A REAL LADY AND WILL BE MISSED*

*LEE AND BOBBI LOFSTROM, WITCH LAKE AND MICCO, FL*

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**BOBBI AND LEE LOFSTROM** - January 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Lucy, Joe, Jim and Family...

*I doubt that there will be enough room here for all the wonderful memories I have of Evelyn...and Johnny, but I will give it my best shot and if they cut me off I will try and send you a personal version, Lucy, that you can share with all you care to.*

*As you are all aware, Evelyn was like a second mother to me. She was my mentor when I was young and a dear friend as we both grew older. I could write a book about my experiences with Evelyn...eating the pasta that has never been matched at any Italian restaurant no matter how pricey...watching her parade around the house in the evening in beautiful lace trimmed nightgowns when my Mom wore tailored pajamas...seeing her break Joe's glasses with a broom when he came home after midnight in high school and I was "sleeping over" with Lucy (now Lucia).*

*By the way, I like Lucia much better...you should have changed it back years ago. It has class!*

*Evelyn never met a stranger and her heart and her home and her table were all open to everyone. If everyone who sat at her table had repaid her in kind, which most did not, she could have eaten out for two lifetimes...maybe longer.*

*She was a savvy businesswoman and more than anything else, she knew her customers and knew them well. She could write orders at market and tell me which dresses, coats, or sportswear, were for whom, and what size and color we should buy for them.*

*But she had no patience for people who purchased one day and then returned the garments a few days later when they fit perfectly. She said that they were "making the lanya", making themselves more important by taking up everyone's time for nothing. And we did have a few of those at Colenso's...and I'm not talking about those who took things home on approval. - Imagine asking to do that today!*

*Evelyn was active in her church and community and set Lucy and I a good example...and she didn't stint on her children to do so, nor her husband. When Johnny gradually lost his sight she was there for him and rarely left his side, even though staying at home was not her style.*

*Evelina, as she proclaimed herself, will be greatly missed by too many to count...and I will be one of them.*

*My prayers and my heart go out to you, her family (and her friends) and only wish that I could be there to hug each of you as the tears spill down my cheeks.*

*As our minister out here in Arizona said last Sunday...Just remember...God Loves You...Now, go out and tell others.*

*I hope that she and my Mom are sitting up in heaven...comparing notes on the cut of the angels' robes...and my Dad is teasing both of them as he was wont to do. Johnny will be looking on, smiling that wonderful warm smile of his and nodding his head. And they will all be there to greet us when we join them.*

*I Love You with all my heart...your home was my home...thanks to Evelyn. Sherry P.S.*

*Please be sure that a copy of Evelyn's obituary is donated to the Historical Museum. She would like that.*

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**Sherry Colenso Dillard** - January 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM