



Evo Santoni

September 25, 1923 - September 21, 2011

Evo Peter Santoni, a few days shy of his 88th birthday, passed away September 21, 2011 at Manor Care Nursing Facility in Kingsford, Michigan.

He was born September 25, 1923, in Iron Mountain, son of the late Italian immigrants, Alberto and Lucia (Toni) Santoni of Sassoferrato, Italy. He graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1942 and immediately enlisted in the army. A paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, he jumped on D-day landing in Ste. Mere Eglise, France. He received a purple heart and an oak leaf cluster for being wounded multiple times. Evo also received the presidential citation and the bronze star. After the war he married June Reiten on January 10, 1947.

He began his work career at the Ford Motor Company in Kingsford. When the Veterans Administration Hospital opened, Evo took the position as head carpenter. Besides working at the Veterans Hospital, Evo always had side jobs building custom cabinets, remodeling, and building new homes. In 1959 Lewis G. Eisele, owner of Eisele Lumber and Fuel, convinced Evo to work for him with the agreement that he would sell his business to Evo in 1964.

In 1964 Evo took ownership of Eisele Lumber and Fuel and immediately began changing the primary focus of the business from a coal and fuel oil supply company to a building material supply company. Many remodeling

projects and additions to the business occurred by 1969. The business name was changed to Santoni Lumber and Fuel and the Santoni family successfully operated it until it was sold on December 31st 1975. In 1970 Evo's interest in construction surfaced again when he founded Dickinson Homes Inc.

He was a long time member of Pine Grove Country Club, a member of the Chippewa Club and 6-7-8 Club. He also had the distinction of serving on the Board of Directors of the Commercial National Bank of Iron Mountain and on the Board of Directors of Trico for more than 30 years. He was a tireless volunteer, but mostly enjoyed time with his family.

He is survived by three children: Paul (Annette) Santoni, Albert (Paula) Santoni, Kathy (Steve) Lewis; eight grandchildren: Maria (Justin) Samuels, Kathryn (Chad) Menza, Kristina (Scott) Oswald, Mario (Brynn) Santoni, Anthony Santoni (Annie Thomas), Benjamin Lewis, Gabriel Lewis, and Adam Lewis; five great-grandchildren: Madelyn and Charli June Samuels, Maren and Lucas Menza, and Gino Santoni.

He leaves behind one sister, Toni Hillenbrand of Overland Park, Kansas, and many nieces and nephews as well as great nieces and great nephews; special friend, Pat Dooley and his good friend and neighbor, Dale Frei.

He was preceded in death by his wife, June; a great granddaughter, Daniela Lyn Oswald; three sisters: Eva Santoni, Vera Van Immerseel-Staple, Evelyn Santini; four brothers-in-law: Frank "Yankee" Van Immerseel, Les Staple, John Santini, and John Hillenbrand; and a niece, Nancy Andrews.

Pallbearers will be his five grandsons and three grandsons-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Visitation will be held from 11:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. Funeral services will follow at 2:00pm at the funeral home. Rev. Michael March will officiate. Burial will be in the Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Condolences to the family of Evo Santoni may be expressed online at www.erickson-rochon-nashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **24.** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

SEP **24.** 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Santoni Family-*

I extend my deepest sympathy to the whole Santoni Family. Mr. Santoni was a great person and he will be greatly missed. May all of you keep strong in this time of sorrow.

Jason Rossato - Iron Mountain, MI - October 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *To all of the Santoni family,
We are so sorry for the loss of you father,grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be sadly missed by family and all who new him. May the wonderful memories you have of Evo live on in your hearts forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love, Mike and Debbie*

Mike and Debbie Oberdorfer - Kingsford, MI - September 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you family during this difficult time.
We are so grateful for the wonderful memories and stories shared at the family reunion....thank you for that.*

We wish that we could be with you at the services.

*Sincerely,
Jerry and Mary Romitti*

Jerry and Mary Romitti - Iron Mountain,, MI - Jerry's Uncle - September 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the entire Santoni Family for the loss of their loved one, Evo. May you cherish every memory of his life shared with you & know that he will be dearly missed by many who knew him. He was a dear friend & companion to my Father & I know in my heart that they are on the golf greens now, proudly smiling down on us all. We were fortunate enough to know Evo as a neighbor & friend. His devotion & committment to his family was reflected in his life. He is at peace now with his loved ones that have gone before him, & we must believe that we will one day see him again.

David & Gail Machus - Iron Mountain, MI - Neighbor & Friend - September 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Paul, Albert, and Kathy:*
Please know we are sharing in the loss of your Dad. We have very fond memories of Evo in his later years patrolling Carpenter Road at Spread Eagle to ensure that all was fine at the Lewis and Santoni homes. It's tough to see this generation getting smaller in numbers but the good things they left for us all are big and will endure. God Bless.

*Bill & Patty Kauper
Carefree, AZ*

Bill & Patty Kauper - Carefree, AZ - Friend - September 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM