



George McDonald "Don" Thayer

February 16, 1929 - March 20, 2018

George McDonald "Don" Thayer

89, of Kingsford, passed into everlasting peace on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the Iron County Medical Care Facility in Crystal Falls.

He was born on February 16, 1929 in Shingleton Michigan, son of the late Leon Wesley and Olive Leota (McDonald) Thayer. He attended the Kingsford schools, graduating from Kingsford High School in 1947. He then enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving his country during the Korean Conflict. While in the Air Force, he learned his trade as a Mechanic, a skill he cherished and worked at his entire life. Don married Annette Rose Richmond on May 30, 1954 at the First Congregation Church while stationed in Keystone, South Dakota. Upon being Honorably discharged, he and his wife moved to Kingsford in 1954. Together, with the help of family they built the family home they live in today in 1965.

Upon his return home, Don first worked as a Milkman for Osterberg Dairy. He then got his start in the Mechanic Business from Iron Mountain Auto Supply, eventually owning his own shop.

Don's greatest passions were his family and cars. If questioned about when something occurred, he would reply, " Let's see, we were driving this make and model vehicle, so it had to happen in such and such a year." He repaired

cars for many people, as well as restoring cars for himself. He also loved to play cards, and square dance, something he taught hundreds of people to do through the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Theron Thayer.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Annette Rose Thayer; three daughters, Debra (Ray) Bartnikowski, Donnette (Fred) Salczenko, and Denise Thayer; six grandchildren, Lisa (Paul) Thoune, Michael Salczenko (Sarah Clawson), Christie Fleming, Raymond Bartnikowski, Jennifer Bartnikowski, (Ben Nevel), and Nicole (Josh) Grinnell; 10 great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12 Noon at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford. The Funeral Service will follow at 12 Noon at the church. Rev. Michael March will officiate.

Condolences to the family of George McDonald "Don" Thayer may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **24.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

Funeral Service

MAR **24.** 12:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

BK

“ *Dear Thayer Family*

I met Don in 1968 via my brother-in-law David Cocking. I pulled my 1957 Chevy into Don's garage for the installation of a 4-barrel carburetor and a new transmission - the car I drove all through college from 1969-1973. Some people just never fade from memory despite the years or the distance - Don was one of those special personalities to me - a person I never knew for the first 17 years of my life but then have never forgotten for the past 50 years. What a special guy and genuinely good person. I am glad I knew him and obviously there was a reason I happened to catch the news of his passing. I am so sorry for your loss but felt I needed to share this with you because of my fondness for a guy who I only spent an hour with in my life. God Bless!

Bill Kauper, Carefree, AZ

Bill Kauper - March 28, 2018 at 05:37 PM

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“ *Dear Annette and Family,*

You well know what a wonderful guy Don was. You also know he was a great Square Dance Caller and instructor, to those of us who needed help. He along with 'Joe" made it such clean fun for so many years. And good exercise too. My love and sympathy to you at this time knowing that it is not easy to lose one you love, but I know your Faith will carry you through. Jesus has already welcomed Don into his eternal home and he may even be square dancing.:) Keep the happy memories. God comfort you knowing he is at peace. My prayer are with you.

Orice Walters



Orice Walters - March 25, 2018 at 05:07 PM