

Louis "Louie" Mattia

July 17, 1941 - October 2, 2017

Louis F. "Louie" Mattia, 76, of Iron Mountain, died Monday, October 2, 2017 at Dickinson County Memorial Hospital.

He was born on July 17, 1941 in Norway, the son of the late Frank and Marie (Ballone) Mattia. Louie graduated from Norway High School in 1959 and then served in the U.S. Navy for four years. After his honorable discharge, he furthered his education at Northern Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in education. Louie married Suzanne Richtig on Sept. 4, 1970 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Iron Mountain.

He spent most of his teaching career at Akron-Fairgrove Public Schools, where he was very dedicated and involved in every school function. Sports was Louie's passion and he enjoyed following the Norway Knights, the Michigan State Spartans and was a die hard Detroit Lions fan. Louie was a very generous and giving person, always willing to help whenever needed.

He is survived by the love of his life, Suzanne; one brother, Don Mattia of Norway; a brother-in-law, Jack (Pat) Richtig of Norway; a niece, Clarissa (Francis) Wall of Denmark and their son, Jack; three nephews, Frank Mattia (Shelley Boehm-Mattia) and their children, Kassie and Eddie, Paul (Tina) Mattia and their sons, Donny and David, and Tony (Ellen) Mattia and their sons, Louis, Zach, and Trevor; a niece, Marie Mattia; and an ex-sister-in-law,

Marge Mattia.

In addition to his parents, Louie was preceded in death by his mother and father-in-law, Clarice and Christ Richtig.

At Louie's request, there will be no services. Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

The family would like to thank the staff of Dickinson County Healthcare System, especially Dr. Kristi Olson, for the excellent care they gave Louis.

Condolences to the family of Louis F. Mattia may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

PL

“ Mr. Mattia spoke up for me one time when I was being ridiculed in his class and it stopped right there. Another time I got into some trouble and he took me aside and spoke to me about it in his kind gentle manner. Lastly at our graduation ceremony he stood up and spoke to all of us and he got emotional and broke down a bit while speaking. He was a kind, sensitive person and I've always greatly admired him. He had the best heart. A good man.



Patrick Lintner - August 16, 2025 at 10:21 AM

PL

“ He was the nicest teachers at Akron Fairgrove and he had a good heart. I didn't know he had died. I was just thinking about him and decided to check on him and found he'd died. I'm so sorry. He was a kind man toward me and I never forgot it. He was too young to go already. He will be missed. Thankyou for everything Lou...Mr. Mattia...my teacher, my friend.

Patrick Lintner - August 15, 2025 at 07:10 AM

DF

“ We were saddened to hear of Lou's passing. He was a wonderful colleague and a great friend to both Don and I. May God gather him into His arms.

Don and Kathie Freel - October 08, 2017 at 10:52 PM

BC

“ I was saddened by the news. He was one of my favorites We were lucky to have him at Akron fair grove all those years.

brian cramer - October 08, 2017 at 07:44 PM

DA

“ Suzanne, I'm sorry to hear the news about Louie. My sympathy to you and the family.

Dean Anderson - October 07, 2017 at 02:18 PM

SW

“ My heart breaks with the loss of a very important person in my life, Louie was like a second father to me & I loved him very much. Too many wonderful memories to list but he did help develop my love of football games and I felt good every weekend to know that we were watching together miles apart, we shared our love of the Lions. I'm going to miss you very much can't believe that I'll never hear your voice again. Love you Rest in peace- Carrot Carrot

Shawna Wright - October 07, 2017 at 01:15 PM

AW

“ So sorry and sad for your loss. As a teacher at Kingsford, I got to know Lou from when he subbed in his retirement at our buildings. He was outstanding in all aspects. You could tell how he dealt with the students and fellow teachers that this was really an experienced professional, and what a great, easy to get along with personality. He always was asking about how you were doing, and how your kids were doing, it wasn't about him. Great man, so easy to talk to. I was able to see Lou for the first time in a while this past summer at a store. It was nice to catch up. Thank God for that and for men like Louie. God Bless.

*Andy Wiltzius
Kingsford, MI*

Andy Wiltzius - October 06, 2017 at 03:18 PM

CG

“ Dear Suzanne and Family,

So very sorry for your loss. Our sympathy to you all.

Rod and Cynthia (Corsi) Gordon

Cynthia Gordon - October 06, 2017 at 11:50 AM

KW

“ I was so sorry to hear that Mr. Mattia had passed away. He helped shape many young minds during his tenure at Akron-Fairgrove. I'll always remember his voice as he announced the football games, teaching us how to drive through drivers training and introducing us to the guts of a frog in Biology class. He was kind, funny and provided a lending ear or encouragement whenever it was needed. My condolences to his entire family. ~ Kathy Atkinson Winters (Class 82')

Kathy Winters - October 05, 2017 at 09:42 PM

CK

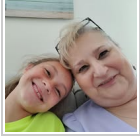
“ Rest in Peace. He always yelled at my best friend to turn around, she was in the front row always trying to pass messages to me in the back row. I laughed every time. Told my parents he wished he had a horse that ran like I could! Lol. Remember your class & the humam skeleton with fondness. Condolences to his family & friends.

Carrie Krause - October 05, 2017 at 08:43 PM

AA

He was a really great mentor of kindness to anyone who had the good fortune to know him. Those of us who had him as a teacher were lucky. He is missef.

Angela Ryan AF1990 - October 05, 2017 at 09:07 PM



“ *I was another one of his students at Akron Fairgrove. He was a great teacher, had a great sense of humor and always had a friendly smile. Rest in peace.*

Jean Nichols-Bunker - October 05, 2017 at 08:32 PM



“ *My heart is sadden with the news of Lou's passing. I always loved him as a teacher but more importantly enjoyed him as a person. He was a friendly face and a good sounding board. He was ready with a smile or laughing and always had a good story. You will be missed on this earth.*

Char Downing - October 05, 2017 at 08:13 PM



“ *Mr. Mattia was the most hilarious teacher! He had the best way of putting education first with the right amount of humor to make you listen. Huge respect for him. He was one of the best at Akron-Fairgrove. Condolences to the family. He will be missed.*

Jamie Nowlen - October 05, 2017 at 07:58 PM



“ *It's been many years but Mr Mattia was my biology teacher @ Akron Fairgrove High. He was a great inspiration for me you see his was one of my favorite classes. So much so I later became an RN. Peace be with you and your family at this time. Malaya Streeter McCraw*

Malaya Streeter McCraw - October 05, 2017 at 07:35 PM

Steve
Kosto

“ Louie and Suzanne were my nextdoor neighbors growing up in Fairgrove. They always treated my sister and I like we were part of their family.

I remember one time we were having a party at our house (my parents were not home). They called and only asked that we turned the radio down because the music was shaking their windows. I am pretty sure they never told my parents.

Last thing. Nobody says "50" like Louie. If you had h as a teacher you know what I mean.

Rest in Peace Louie. Hope to see you sometime down the road.

Steve Kosto - October 05, 2017 at 07:34 PM

JK

“ Louie and I grew up together as neighbors and friends on Norway Hill. As kids we played in the sandbox and hauled many a load with our toy trucks. We, also, pretended to be one of the "Hilltoppers" team as we played baseball across the street. Louie was very fair and full of fun, and will surely be missed by all who knew him. John "Jr." Kimichik

John G. Kimichik - October 05, 2017 at 07:10 PM

CC

“ Cindy Campbell lit a candle in memory of Louis "Louie" Mattia



Cindy Campbell - October 05, 2017 at 05:24 PM

CC

He was one of my faves...

Cindy Campbell - October 05, 2017 at 05:25 PM

PM

“ *Dear Jack, Pat, and Family,
We extend our deepest sympathy to you at your loss. May your fond memories bring you comfort in the days ahead.
Pam and Rock Mannigel*

Pam Mannigel - October 05, 2017 at 05:13 PM



“ *Great teacher, great man, loved listening to him on the PA at the football games.*

Brian Voss - October 05, 2017 at 04:33 PM



“ *Rest in peace Mr. Mattia.*

Matthew Cragg - October 05, 2017 at 04:18 PM



“ *Happy to have had Mr. Mattia as a teacher at Akron Fairgrove. This great man will surely be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Lisa Valentine, Class of 1979*

Jim N Valentine - October 05, 2017 at 03:34 PM



“ *Mr. Mattia was one of the greats. Aside from teaching the biological sciences, we learned plenty about the important things in life that didn't always have to do with science. He mentored a great many of us; he pushed us; and he was brutally honest. I will never forget him, and I'm forever grateful for his mentorship. Rest in peace, sir.*

Keith Edgette - October 05, 2017 at 03:13 PM

AM

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Mr. Mattie was one of the best teacher i ever had a A-F. When you needed a friend he always there, for us giving us great advise. Have a lot of great memories of him. May he Rest In Peace, and may God be there with open arms waiting for him.

Anita Montez - October 05, 2017 at 05:54 PM

CF

Mr. Mattia was a fabulous teacher, commentator, mentor everything about him was wonderful.. he loved what he did and showed! Prayers for his family..Heaven received another beautiful angel! Rest In Peace Mr. Mattia.. Carrie Campbell Class of 1985

Carrie Flock - October 05, 2017 at 06:22 PM

SK

Mr. Mattia was my nextdoor neighbor growing up in Fairgrove. Suzanne and Louie we're absolutely the best. They always treated me like family.

I will never forget one night we were have a party at our house loud music and all. They called and asked if we could turn the music down because it was shaking their windows. I am pretty sure they never mentioned it to my parents.

Last thing. Nobody says 50 like Louie. If you had him as a teacher. You know.

Rest in Peace Louie. Hope to see you down the road.

Steve Kosto - October 05, 2017 at 07:14 PM

RW

“ *Mr. Mattia! Akron-Fairgrove loves you!!! Suzanne, we love you too and are so sorry for your loss. Renee Wood class of 1971* ❤️❤️❤️

Renee J. Wood - October 05, 2017 at 03:10 PM

HF

“ *Me Mattia was one of my favorites at akron-faigrove. I always looked forward to his biology classes. He always wanted you to do your best with whatever you were doing at that time.*

heath finn - October 05, 2017 at 01:49 PM

KF

Mr. Mattia was one reason to enjoy going to school

Kathy McPherson Finn - October 05, 2017 at 02:28 PM

TG


“ *He was my favorite teacher. He will be missed by many. Thoughts and prayers to all of you.*

Tammy Schweitzer Goodchild - October 05, 2017 at 01:16 PM

CC

“ *Mr. Mattia was such an amazing mentor to us all at Akron-Fairgrove High School. I will always treasure all the memories of him as our teacher, Athletic Director and friend!! He always had kind words of encouragment for everyone and when you needed a slap on the back of the head you got that too, with lots of love, lol. He was such a kind man and always was at all events going on at the school!! Lou we will miss you so much! God Bless You and your family and thanks for being the best teacher, and mentor ever!!!*

Catherine Cogo - October 05, 2017 at 01:15 PM

Cristie Rahn

“ *Mr. Mattia was one of the most beloved teachers at Akron-Fairgrove! He had a strong sense of fairness and integrity and treated all of his students with respect. He was a constant at all sporting venues, and all the kids loved to "josh" with him at school and out in public. He represented the best of the world of education.*

Cristie Rahn - October 05, 2017 at 12:58 PM

CH

I remember having Mr. Mattia years ago in Jr.High. The Tigers were in the World Series & he brought in a TV for his classes to watch the Tigers win.

Calene (Berry) Higgins - October 05, 2017 at 01:18 PM

NC

“ *He was one of my favorite teachers. I loved working with him and helping him with his athletic director communications my last two years of high school. Please know that I hold only fond memories of him and that you all are in my thoughts and prayers. Nancy (Wilson) Crosby*

Nancy Crosby - October 05, 2017 at 12:54 PM

JC

Lou was my main man when I followed him as the AD at AF. As long as I was the Head Football Coach he would do all my duties at the home games. 14 years and only take a thank you for his commitment to the Student/Athletes at AF

Jim Volk a former teacher / coach - October 05, 2017 at 01:05 PM

RS

Lou was the first faculty member I met at A-F. He was a great person, A.D., fellow pheasant hunter, mentor and friend. All at A-F were lucky to have had him. I will never forget him.

Robert Swan - October 05, 2017 at 03:33 PM

KA

Football team of 1969 will never forget you Keith arnold

keith arnold - October 05, 2017 at 06:52 PM

BM

I have fond memories of Lou. He not only was a great teacher for the students but was a great teacher for the faculty. I also remember him leaving his room for a few minutes whenever our home economics class was making chocolate chip cookies. He would always want to taste test them . May God welcome you to Paradise.

Betty McGee - October 05, 2017 at 11:48 PM

DA

“ *My condolences to Mr. Mattia's family, I had him in high school and was one of my favorite teachers! He will not be forgotten.*

David Allen - October 05, 2017 at 12:46 PM



“ *I was just talking on Facebook to some of my classmates the other day about sneaking out on the roof out of the Third Floor Study Hall Mr. Mattia had for us at the old HighSchool in Fairgrove. We had to wait until he left the room, of course, and wait until he left AGAIN to get back in thru the window..... God Bless Louis Mattia. Love to his family.*

Maureen Mccloy-Sherd - October 05, 2017 at 12:17 PM

CC

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Catherine Cogo - October 05, 2017 at 12:10 PM