



Paul M. Santoni

November 19, 1947 - November 16, 2019

Paul Martin Santoni was born to eternal life on November 16, 2019, three days before his seventy-second birthday.

Several words have been spoken about Paul since he began his battle. Loyal. Loving. Honest. A man of great integrity. A true friend. Someone said he had the best smile. "Your dad was an amazing man who always greeted with a hug and knew how to make everyone he met feel special." He taught life lessons. Through the years, Paul was generous with his time, teaching his daughters, their cousins, and friends how to play tennis or basketball and snow ski or water ski. He was generous with his wallet, too. One of Kathryn's friends wrote, "We never would have made it through college without visits from your parents taking us out for dinner."

On the opening day of deer season, November 19, 1947, June (Reiten) and Evo Santoni headed to the hospital to await the birth of their first child, Paul Martin Santoni. Paul attended school in Kingsford, graduating with the class of 1965. In January of 1970, he graduated from Northern Michigan University. Paul's high school and college years were filled with the pursuit of athletics. His dad always said, "We put a ball in his crib, and he started playing with it." Paul had the good fortune to be part of a class that loved sports and excelled on the field and in the gym. Paul was awarded first team conference and UP Honors for football. Paul and Dick Berlinski and Dwight Romagnoli were

captains of the varsity football team. His lifelong friend, Rich McCarthy, was the quarterback of that award winning team, which achieved the title of Conference Champs and were Barber Trophy recipients in 1963 and 1964. After high school, Paul and Rich McCarthy continued their football careers as end and quarterback at Northern Michigan University. In 2016, Northern's 1967 football team was inducted in the Sports Hall of Fame. In 1968, the football program honored Paul with the Award for Academic Excellence. On the basketball court, the 1965 Flivver team established a winning record before losing to River Rouge in the state semi finals. Paul was invited to play basketball at NMU but declined. The Flivvers won UP track honors in 1963 and lost by ½ point in 1964, As a member of the mile relay team, Paul helped set a Menominee Range record in 1964.

In August of 1967, Paul married Annette Marie Carlson. After graduation from NMU, they returned to the IM-Kingsford area, and he began his career as manager of Santoni Lumber and Fuel. In 1970, Evo Santoni, Paul's father, built a modular home factory, Dickinson Homes, and in 1975 Paul joined his brother, Albert, at DHI.

Paul continued to pursue his love of sports as a member of Pine Grove Country Club and served as the club's president. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Board of the First National Bank and Trust, and 678.

Paul was preceded in death by his mother and father, June and Evo Santoni; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Ella Carlson Mette and Nobel Carlson; his step- father-in-law, W. Glenn Mette; his sister-in-law, Lenore Carlson Kelly; and his granddaughter, Daniela Lyn Oswald.

Paul is survived by his wife of 52 years, Nettie, and his daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren which include Maria and Justin Samuels and their girls, Madelyn Lenore and Charli June of De Pere, WI; Kathryn and Chad Menza and their children, Maren Elizabeth and Lucas John of Kingsford; and Kristina

and Scott Oswald and their daughter, Abigail Lucia of Highland, MI. Paul is also survived by a brother and sister and their spouses: Albert and his wife Paula, and Kathryn and her husband, Stephen Lewis. Paul was the uncle of five nephews: Mario (Brynn) Santoni, Anthony (Annie) Santoni, Benjamin Lewis, Gabriel (Jamie) Lewis, and Adam Lewis. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, William Kelly.

Paul received great love and support from many wonderful friends and neighbors. Special thanks goes out to Kristi and Richard Celello, Kathryn and Michael Harvey, and Susan and Jim Santini. Paul's family would like to recognize and thank Dr. Stephen Leonard for his support during this journey of nine months. Further thanks is extended to Dr. Morel and staff; Dr. Shaker and staff; the doctors, nurses, and staff at DCHS; and Jamie Paternoster and Sarah Stanek in the Rehab Department of the hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 6:00 in the evening on Thursday, November 21st, at the First Presbyterian Church on Hamilton Avenue.

The family requests that donations be made in Paul's memory to either the Pine Grove Country Club's tree and grounds program or to the First Presbyterian Church's pavilion project.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Paul Santoni online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 21. 6:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

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Tribute Wall



“ Paul Hyrkas Construction, LLC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



Paul Hyrkas Construction, LLC - November 21, 2019 at 03:00 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



November 21, 2019 at 02:40 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



November 21, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



November 21, 2019 at 10:31 AM

JF

“ *Our condolences and sympathy. Paul was one GOOD man! He will be missed.*

Sincerely

Jimmy and Winnie Fornetti

Jim Fornetti - November 20, 2019 at 08:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.*



November 20, 2019 at 08:52 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.*



November 20, 2019 at 08:02 PM

KB

“ *Nettie and family, holding you in my thoughts and prayers. May you find peace in the special memories you have of Paul in your hearts. God bless ~ Kaylan Baron (RN Surgical Unit)*



Kaylan Baron - November 20, 2019 at 05:20 PM

AW

“ Dear Nettie and family,
We are so sorry. Paul was always such a kind and friendly person. Class act all the way. He had that special knack for always making people feel comfortable around him, and showed great interest in whomever he was talking with. He was really a special person and role model for many of us. Our deepest sympathies, you are in our prayers.

Andy and Brenda Wiltzius and family

Andy Wiltzius - November 20, 2019 at 04:40 PM

CB

“ Beau and I were saddened to read of Paul's passing. He really was a fine man. It must be a comfort in this very sad time for his family and friends to know his pain is gone and he is now wrapped in God's Almighty Arms and surrounded with everlasting peace. God be with you all ~ Jim and Cookie Beauchamp 🌹

Cookie Beauchamp - November 20, 2019 at 02:43 PM

TF

“ Tom and Jill Fogle purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



Tom and Jill Fogle - November 20, 2019 at 01:58 PM

TF

“ I didn't get a chance to get to know Mr. Santoni, but I had the privilege of getting to know his daughter Kathryn over the past 7 years. He must have been a great man because his influence on Kathryn modeled her into one of the most loyal, dedicated, and hard working people I have ever been around. This is a true testament of a father that does things right by the way his children value their father's beliefs by living through him everyday. Great men raise great daughters and Mr. Santoni raised a great one in Kathryn.

Kathryn, please know that his influence will be with you, your siblings, and most importantly your children for eternity.

My heart, thoughts, and prayers go out to you and your family during this time.

Friends for life,

Tom Fogle

Tom Fogle - November 20, 2019 at 01:47 PM

RS

“ I was saddened to hear the news of Paul's passing. I luckily had the privilege of playing a number of rounds of golf with Paul at Pine Grove. Paul was a first class gentleman who treated everyone with respect. I certainly will miss not seeing him on the course.

Ron Sendzik

Ron Sendzik - November 20, 2019 at 01:46 PM

MF

“ Sorry to hear about Paul’s passing. I worked with Paul for 8 years and am proud to have him as a friend for more than 40 years. I’m thankful to have spent some quality time with him at Pine Grove this fall. He was a very caring person.

Mac Frick

Mac Frick - November 20, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



November 20, 2019 at 10:56 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



November 20, 2019 at 09:46 AM

FR

“ From Jerry Riley Jackie Solomon and Jack Riley purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Paul M. Santoni.



From Jerry Riley Jackie Solomon and Jack Riley - November 19, 2019 at 07:08 PM

KA

“ Paul was a great man, a great boss to us at Holiday Inn Express. While i was there he came in several times a week, always asked how i was and was a great man in general. So sad to hear of his passing and my thoughts and prayers are with his family.



Katie - November 19, 2019 at 12:28 PM

AR

“ April Reinerio lit a candle in memory of Paul M. Santoni



April Reinerio - November 19, 2019 at 11:58 AM

JF

“ Nettie, so very sorry to hear of Paul's passing. I knew Paul early on in grade school through my friendship with younger brother Al. Also in high school Paul and Rich McCarthy became my “ sports mentors” and always accepted my in their group. I always greatly appreciated their friendship. And of course growing up in Ford Addition with you, your 2 female cohorts, Ginnie and Kathy and all the rest of the guys what great memories. I know the love of your family will surround you during this difficult time and ease the pain you feel. Take care and God Bless. Jeff Franson

Jeff Franson - November 19, 2019 at 08:01 AM

JN

“ Nettie and family Bev and I want to express our deepest sympathy. Paul was a friend of mine ever since grade school. Although we were not close after high school as we went our separate ways in life he was always welcoming when we visited Iron Mountain.

Jim and Bev Nowak

Jim Nowak - November 18, 2019 at 08:35 PM

MG

“ Nettie and family - I was saddened to learn of Paul's passing this weekend. Although we have not kept in touch in recent years, he was an unforgettable presence in my life for many years prior. I will always remember his generosity and kindness when we'd have our annual 4th of July reunion for Grandma Lizzie's Birthdays at Cosgrove Lake. Fond memories of him will keep him alive in my heart forever and I will truly miss him. My sincerest condolences to you all.

Maria Gardipee - November 18, 2019 at 05:06 PM

WG

“ Two things that will always stand out in remembering Paul..were his all out effort either in a Flivver football or basketball uniform and mostly his kind demeanor and infectious smile..... You have my sympathy...a friend...from Kingsford Heights...Westwood school.....Bill Groleau KHS Class of '61 !

William Groleau - November 18, 2019 at 04:58 PM

MH

“ Nettie ,thoughts of you and your family ...hugs ,Lynn and Marian Hiatt 🙏

marian hiatt - November 18, 2019 at 03:46 PM

PB

Nettie and Family. Sorry for the loss of a Great Man, a Great Husband, a Great Family Man and a friend to many. Sincerely, Paul was one of my best friends and the finest person I have been associated with. He was also my favorite person to golf with and I have been fortunate to have spent so much time with him. My message to my kids had always been, "If you could grow up to act like and be like any person, I would want you to be like my friend Paul Santoni". Paul has set the example for the rest of us to follow! There was a reason why he was referred to as the "God Father". He was always there for us and made time all the time. He will be missed greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family and thank you Nettie for fighting the fight with Paul. Thank you. Paul Bujold and Family!

Paul Bujold - November 19, 2019 at 04:57 PM

SK

I remember him as a ferocious competitor with a warm and genial nature. My boyhood friends and I all liked and respected him. Even then we understood that he was special in many ways. May his memory be a blessing.

Steven Kushner - November 19, 2019 at 06:00 PM

JS

Nettie and family< We are so sorry to hear of Paul passing. I can still remember him giving me expert card advice at cribbage club. Paul and I will remember him as a truly nice person. Our sincere sympathy.

Jill Smith - November 20, 2019 at 01:12 PM