



Ronald Tomassoni

October 19, 1932 - October 19, 2010

Ronald P. Tomassoni, 78, of 222 W. Antoine St. in Iron Mountain, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, at his home.

Ron was born April 29, 1932, in Iron Mountain, to Violet (Serena) and the late Peter A. Tomassoni.

He attended school in Iron Mountain graduating in 1950. He then attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, graduating in 1954. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years. During this time, he was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, and then served in Korea, finishing his tour of service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. After his discharge, he moved back to Iron Mountain, where he began working for Fleury, Singler & Co.

In 1961, Ron took over his father's business, Recreation Lanes. He saw the popularity of bowling as a way to bring inexpensive entertainment to the residents of both Iron Mountain and Kingsford. In 1978, he opened Recreation Lanes of Kingsford and in 1984 purchased the old water filtration plant on the northside of Iron Mountain and developed the land, transforming a vacant swampy lot into what is now Antoine Plaza. Located in Antoine Plaza are the businesses Recreation Lanes of Iron Mountain, Comfort Inn and Holiday Inn Express.

He enjoyed working with students and formed an after-school youth bowling program. Students from Iron Mountain and Breitung Township schools have enjoyed participating in this program over the years. It was always Ron's dream to see bowling as an accredited varsity letter sport in Michigan's high schools, and he worked tirelessly to fulfill that vision. In 2005, bowling became a varsity sport in the state of Michigan, sanctioned by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. His Iron Mountain High School varsity bowling teams attended local conference, regional and state tournaments. In 2009, his IMHS boys bowling team placed first in the Division 3 State Tournament, bringing the first state championship bowling trophy to Iron Mountain High School.

Ron was a member of St. Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. He also belonged to Oak Crest Golf Club, was an avid bowler and season-ticket holding Packer fan. Ron was a charter member of the Jaycees, past member of Pine Grove Country Club and served on the board of directors for the Bowling Centers Association of Michigan. He was inducted into the Tri Area Bowling Hall of Fame in 1994 for his dedication and service to the sport of bowling in our area. He founded the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association and served as its first president. In 2009, the Michigan High School Athletic Association honored Ron by naming him the 2009 High School Bowling Coach of the Year. The city of Iron Mountain also presented Ron with a proclamation at a city council meeting in April of this year, acknowledging all he has done for the youth of Iron Mountain and the sport of bowling.

Ron is survived by his wife of 55 years, Angie; a son, Peter J. (Cathy) Tomassoni and their sons, Joseph and Albert; a daughter, Paula (Shawn) Hepinstall and their children, Megan (Rhett) Cleveland and Matthew Hepinstall; and his mother, Violet Tomassoni.

Visitation will be Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Mary and St. Joseph Church in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will follow at 12 noon at the church. Fr. Daniel Zaloga will offer the Mass of the Christian Burial.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Pallbearers will be the members of Ron's 2009 State Championship bowling team.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences to the family of Ronald P. Tomassoni can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church
414 Prospect Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Angie, I am so shocked to receive your Christmas card and hear of Ron's death. What a wonderful life he did lead especially with you by his side. He had great foresight and did not waste a moment that God gave him. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you work through your grief.

Mary and Ken Rasmussen

Mary Serena Rasmussen - Cypress, CA - cousin - December 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Angie, Pete and family. I was saddened to hear of the passing of Ron. My time working for him in high school were some of the best memories I have. From cutting grass at the camp and painting it, to washing bowling pins in the summer, to working the bowling alleys in the on season. There are so many fond and funny stories in my head from those times, I still chuckle when I think of them. The last time I talked to him was about 2 years ago when I was in town and went bowling with the family. I caught Ron in the parking lot, and must have talked for a half hour. He will be greatly missed by a lot of people who's lives he's touched.

Scott Hansen - Menasha, WI - November 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Ron's passing. He was a true inspiration to everyone he came in contact with. He was a wonderful husband, father and friend. Ron was a phenomenal businessman who kept bowling in the Iron Mountain, Kingsford and surrounding areas with the help of an outstanding staff throughout the years.

God bless and comfort you Angie, Pete, Cathy and the rest of the family.

Rich Blocksom - Neenah, WI - Friend - October 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ TO Angie, Pete, and family: Wanted to let you know that our prayers are with you. It was a joy to work for Ron and to know him. He was a fine man and his dedication to the young people has encouraged me to be a better person. Thank you for all you do for others.

Rebecca (Mitchell) Lilienthal - Friend and former employee - October 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Our sympathy to Pete and Cathy and family. Just found out about Ron's passing and even though this is a very traumatic time for you and yours, just seeing his picture here made me think about our bowling days, long ago for me. It's the same rye smile I would get when I would tell him how I got robbed after throwing one perfect ball after another. Now God is smiling on him and his precious ones left behind to do his bidding. Thanks for the memories.

Love, Bill and DollyG

Bill and Dolly Cook - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - October 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Hello Angie, Pete, Paula

It has been such a long time and it is with a heavy heart that I extend my deepest sympathy to you and your familys. At the same time it brings back such good memorys of bowling and working at Recreation Lanes in my younger days. Ron taught me more than how to bowl, he taught me responsibilty in my first job. I will always have such a great respect for Ron.

*Mike Radtke
Appleton, WI*

Mike Radtke - Appleton, WI - Former Employee - October 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Angie,

We are so sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing Ron with us and many others. To know Ron was to know kindness of heart and generosity toward mankind. His sincerity of purpose with high school bowling is what bonded our friendship over the years. He will be sorely missed, not only by us, but tens of thousands of young men and women who have brighter and more effective lives thanks to his persistence with high school bowling in Michigan.

*The Bowl Swami & Wife
Harry and Jane Burkey*

Harry Burkey - Grosse Pointe Woods, MI - Friend - October 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Hello,

Dear Tomassoni Family,

We are so sorry to hear of this very sad news. Ron will always be remembered by the students and staff of Iron Mountain High School for bringing home the state bowling championship trophy.

We are grateful and appreciative for the program he developed and proud of his efforts in supporting our youth.

Our sincere sympathy,

*Denny and Deb Chartier, retired IM superintendent and teacher,
Peoria, AZ*

Denny and Deb Chartier - Peoria, AZ - friends - October 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *My prayers go out to the Tomassoni family. I met Ron in 1998 when I first began coaching. We all know he was the force behind getting high school bowling started. (Look at it now). I was honored to serve on the executive board with him and served as 1st VP out of respect for his wishes as he wanted so much for the coaches association to flourish. (Which it has). My heart goes out to his wife and the family. He will be missed.*

Respectfully

Carl Doornbos

Rockford Bowling

retired

Carl Doornbos - Rockford, MI - Bowling coach/executive board - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *My condolences on the loss of Ron , he was so very active in hs bowling.
His input will be missed by all .*

Ted Kress - Walled Lake, MI - High School coaching - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Our condolences go out to the Tomassoni family.*

We will always remember the years of dedicated service Ron choose to do in order to make bowling a high school sport. Chris was able to participate in this sport for 3 years as a Kingsford Flivver because of his dedication and resolve.

Dennis, Tina and Chris Martinson - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *To the family, I am so sorry for your loss and my thoughts and prayers are with you. The next time it rains and you hear thunder know that Ron just got a Strike!!*

TeLa Hereau - NIAGARA, WI - Friend - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *To Angie, Pete, Cathy, Joe, and Albert.
our deepest sympathy for your loss
Sincerely, Timm, Mary, and Brooke*

timfornetti - iron mountain, MI - friend - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Our family extends our heartfelt condolences to Angie, Pete, Paula, and the rest of the Tomassoni family. Ron was more than a friend to us. He was an employer, a friend, and a mentor. My experiences with Ron & Angie at Recreation Lanes bolstered my confidence to buy my own bowling centers. We will miss Ron.

Janie Guiliani - Boyne Falls, MI - Friend - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dear Tomassoni family,

Our deepest sympathy to you. We met Ron through Emily bowling for the IMHS girls' bowling team. We will always be grateful to Ron for all of the time & effort he put into the bowling teams. We will be praying for you during this very difficult time.

Bonnie, Jim & Emily McMorrow

Bonnie, Jim & Emily McMorrow - Iron Mountain, MI - friends - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ So very sorry to hear about your father, grandfather, and husband passing. He surely was a great man. He will be missed by many.

Sue and Meg

Suzanne And Megan Kafka - MI - Friend - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Ron's passing. I learned a lot from him, and enjoyed the 7 years I worked with him. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time.

Tracy (Lowe) See - Canyon, TX - Former employee - October 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Our deepest condolences to a very special human beings family. It is a deep loss for both you the family and the bowling industry.

*Frank, Mark, & Matt Molinaro
L & J Lanes Inc.
Jonesville, Mi.*

Frank, Mark, & Matt Molinaro - Jonesville, MI - Friends - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Tomassoni Family,

We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Since we left the bowling leagues a few years ago we've kind of lost touch with the "bowling family", but we wanted to express our heartfelt condolences to the family. We know Ron will be greatly missed by everyone. He was a very generous person and a great bowler. We will keep you all in our prayers.

John & Robin Grycowski - Florence, WI - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Ron was a kind and gentle man. When I was in junior high, he used to let me practice on Saturday mornings for free without pins at the old Recreation Lanes across from the post office. He also put up with good humor with a lot of grief in the junior high and high school afternoon leagues.

Rest in peace, Ron.

Jon Hultquist - West Chicago, IL - friend - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Tomassoni family. I remember the board meeting when Ron proposed to the board the High School Bowling concept that had been established in the U.P. His passion was great and he followed it through to the end. His efforts created a wave that is still going today 12+ years later as High School Bowling continues to be the fastest growing High School Sport. What a legacy to leave behind. If we had a count of the number of High School Bowlers over that time the number would be staggering. Thanks Ron, you will not soon be forgotten!

Jim and Sara Teuber - Swartz Creek, MI - friend - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I'm sorry to hear that Ronald has past away. Ronald will be remembered for many good things. He's done so much in Michigan ,where do you start. I'll never forget Ronald guiding me threw all the hurdles to get a High school bowling program going in our town. We talked for hours and always seem to loose track of time, I always enjoyed every minute of it. We both seem to be down to the state finals where I couldn't wait to talk to my old friend. We love Ron and will miss him dearly.
Paul Post

Paul Post - Saint Louis, MI - Friend - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Tomassoni family. Sunnybrook has hosted many of the High School state finals and I would always look forward to the time Ron would spend with me. Not only his passion and love for the high school bowling but his un-ending business knowledge he shared with me gave me a better education then you could imagine. Ron will always be remembered.

Randy & Cheryl Shank

Randy & Cheryl Shank Sunnybrook Golf & Bowl - Sterling Heights, MI - Bowling proprietor - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Tomassoni family, we are so sad to hear of the loss of your dad, he was a truly a man with a vision for his family, his business, and bowling in the state of Mi. He will truly be missed by those who knew and loved him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of trial.

The Schrauben Family, Chopper, Jonda, Jocelyn, Morgan, and Madison.

Chopper and Jonda Schrauben - Portland, MI - friend and colleague - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ We are very sorry for the loss of Ron. Everytime we would go bowling he would be there with a smile. He brightened up the room when he walked in. I bowled at the alley for years and he was very helpful and knew us all by name. He will be missed by everyone!!!

Faye and Ken Kirchoff - Kingsford, MI - friend - October 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LU

“ We are very sorry for your family loss, Ron was a very nice man. We always enjoyed his company at Choice conference's. We will pray for Ron and his family. God Bless

Linda and Frank Stabile - Marquette, MI - Friend and board member of UPTRA -
October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ We just like to say how sorry we are with the passing of Ron and that are thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless you all Jerry and Connie Maki

Jerry and Connie Maki - Covington, GA - Friends - October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dear Angie, as the City Manager of Iron Mountain from 2004-2008, I had the opportunity to get to know Ron and work with him on several projects. I would like to say we were friends. I am very sorry for your loss and I herein offer you and your family my sympathy and condolences. Ron was a good man and I enjoyed our time in trying to improve Iron Mountain.
John Marquart

John Marquart - Oak Forest, IL - City colleagues - October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ dear angie & family
my thoughts and prayers are with you as you morn the loss of ron. i will always cherish the m em ories of bowling for your team at rec lanes. I especially remember the great time we had at the season ending party for the team at your cam p. ron was a great person and i will be praying for him and you. god bless paul

paul moroni - bark river , MI - friend - October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dear Tomassonis,
Our thoughts and our prayers are with your whole family. We'll miss Ron deeply at our bowling meetings and functions. He was truly one of the kindest, hardest working, thoughtful proprietors in our organization. What a GREAT example he was for all of us!!

Doug and Shelli Boomsma

Doug Boomsma - Hudsonville, MI - Fellow Bowling Proprietor - October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ A close family friend - Ron.

Will always remember and cherish the great times at Green Acres camp as a kid. The kids were not yet old enough to hunt. Ron & Pete were the guides and hosts for my dad, brother & me. We would stay a night or two during Thanksgiving break. Played 31 for 22 shells until bed time. Listened to the old worn out bowling pins burning & crackling in the Franklin wood stove. But that sound was soon surpassed by Ron's snoring. He gave us a half an hour to fall asleep before he hit the hay.

Out to the woods after a good breakfast but we never harvested a deer. It didn't matter. Just being with friends and enjoying camp was all that mattered.

We'll all miss Ron. My deepest sympathies to Angie, Paula, Pete and grandma.

Bryan Kesler - Iron Mountain, MI - friend - October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My heart goes out to the Tomassoni family, your all in my thoughts & prayers. Also I'd like to send my prayers out to Ron's bowling family, he touched many lives, which gives us many memories. I feel honored to have known him & will miss him dearly.

Cheryl Dingeldey - L'Anse, MI - friend - October 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ Another of our Hero's has gone on to his next duty station. God Bless.

You have our deepest sympathy!

Richard & Gail Dabb Coconut Creek, Florida - Friend and former neighbor. -
October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Words cannot describe my deep sorrow for your loss. I have so many memories from learning how to bowl, to hand score(kids couldnt do it today) and to really learn to have fun.

I still enjoy throwing the rock now with my kids and i have tried to pass on the fun the sport is that Ron, Chuck and Mrs Tommassoni taught us so well.

I would hope that my kids are as lucky as I to learn from and become friends with a man like ron.

I was blessed and fortunate to have known him

Steve Juul

Steve Juul - iron mountain, MI - friend - October 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM