



Thomas J. Marttila

September 20, 1947 - January 21, 2024

Thomas John Marttila, a longtime resident of Iron Mountain, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024 in his home. He was 76.

Tom was born September 20, 1947 in Hancock, MI, to the late Oscar S. and Lillian I. (Ylitalo) Marttila. As a child he grew up and learned how to work on the Liminga Farm. Tom graduated from Houghton High School in 1965. He would often talk about playing hockey and football for the Gremlins. The Copper Bowl versus Hancock was special to him. Tom attended Michigan Technological University. While in school Tom joined the United States Navy because he wanted “to see the world”. He served on the USS Catamount and was honorably discharged. Tom was also in the Army National Guard Reserves for 21 years and, again, was honorably discharged. On August 19, 1972 he was united in marriage to Carrie Edith Cooney at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Houghton. Carrie preceded him in death on November 13, 2010. Tom graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry in 1973. The couple made their home and raised two children in Iron Mountain after residing in Escanaba, Grayling, and Niagara. Tom worked for Mead Paper, Niagara Paper Mill, Minerick Logging, Nickels Logging, and later had his own timber cruising business. Tom loved to be in the woods.

Tom was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Iron Mountain where he worked the Saturday Night Bingo for many years. Tom

enjoyed his time at hunting camp, elk hunting trips to Idaho, fishing trips to Isle Royal, family trips to Florida, bowling in local leagues, attending Labor Day Baseball in Channing, and camping on the Otter River with Carrie.

Along with Carrie, Tom loved and cherished his Mountaineer Family. He lived for watching his sons and grandchildren play sports for the Mountaineers. The relationship he had with Ian and Ava made his life so fulfilling to the end. It was a gift from God!

Also preceding him in death was a brother, Gerald Marttila, brothers and sisters-in-law, Geraldine Cooney, Luella Latvis, Daniel Cooney, Warren and Kathy Mattson.

Surviving are his children, Daniel Lee and Robin Allen (Jennifer) Marttila, both of Iron Mountain; two grandchildren, Ian Thomas and Ava Jane; one brother-in-law, Ross Cooney of Green Bay and two sisters-in-law, Laverne Marttila of Lynchburg, VA and Sandy Cooney of Houghton; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Your family and friends will miss you!

Tom "lived it". There were no regrets. Tom's family is at peace knowing that he is reunited in Heaven with his loving wife, his only brother, and parents. God has a plan for us all.

Visitation will be Tuesday, January 30 from 3:00-6:00 pm at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. A springtime burial will be at Forest Hill Cemetery in Houghton.

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

Condolences to the family of Thomas J. Marttila can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

48048 Macinnes Dr.
Houghton, MI 49931

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **30**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

“ Although we aren't close neighbors or even live in the same state of Michigan anymore, I would consider us a pretty tight-knit family. We all have so many fond memories of our awesome Uncle Tom, beautiful wife and mother Carrie, and their undeniably incredible sons, families, and friends. My heart goes out to my dear cousins Dan and Robin and their families and friends as well as all of those who have had the pleasure of spending time with Tom regularly. May his many memories continue to bless us.



We all have many wonderful memories to share. I honestly can't think of a negative memory involving him, even when my own father, his only brother, passed away at the early age of 55. I know it was so hard on my mom, my Uncle Tom, my dad's parents, my cousins, and others. Uncle Tom was there to support and love us all without hesitation. He took the lead and kept us all together through thick and thin. In my opinion, he probably didn't know that there were many more tough times ahead, but he maintained through the grace of God. I thank the Lord for His mercy upon Tom and the rest of us. Tom continues to be a role model for us to follow.

One memory that I would like to share involves me being a seventeen-year-old staying with my mom and little sister, Renee, on the farm in Tapiola at Grandma Lyttinen's house for a while. Although it was nice to be there, it was pretty remote. I remember being bored out of my gourd at times and asking Mom for permission to borrow the car and drive to Karvako's store and just drive around aimlessly in the beautiful boonies.

On one particular day, I was lazily driving the back roads of Tapiola. I eventually found myself slowly crossing a bridge over the Otter River. I didn't even really know where I was. As I drove across the bridge, I noticed a man near the woods fishing. As I glanced in his direction, I was shocked to recognize him. I stopped on the bridge, got out, and yelled down, "Hi, Uncle Tom, is that you?" I couldn't

deny the brilliant smile and the hearty laughter that came afterward.

Here was my Uncle Tom from Iron Mountain, who lived hours away, in the middle of nowhere, as was I. He was a lover of nature and wasn't afraid to be on his own catching fish for dinner. We had a great conversation, and it made my day as well as I hoped it did his. He might have come over later that evening for sauna and dinner at grandma's. It's still one of my favorite memories. No matter how lonely and far away we might feel, God still has us in His sights. Uncle Tom's amazing smile and his comforting laughter and conversation reminded me of our everlasting Heavenly Father's love for us.

There are many more stories that can be told involving Danny and Robin's Dad, Robin's wife and children, and the many family and friends who knew Tom well. Ultimately, the Lord will use us if we pray and allow Him to do so. Thank you Lord for letting Tom be the one who helped me that day, and maybe I helped him, too. As Danny says, "Love you always." Thank you, Uncle Tom, for being such a blessing to me and others. See you in heaven. Love you always.

*Your niece,
Sheri*

Sheri Bosta - January 30, 2024 at 01:53 AM

SS

“ *We are so sorry to hear of Tom's passing. He was Sue's favorite Ylitalo cousin. We send our condolences to Tom's family. He will be missed by all.*

Al and Sue Stone

Sue Stone - January 27, 2024 at 07:40 PM

JT

“ A great Michigan Tech Forester, & always a shining ✨ light in the Forest Industry to fellow foresters & the logging community. Tom left the forests greener than he found them !

Jack Thomas - January 27, 2024 at 01:01 PM

WL

“ Extending our sympathy in the loss of your Dad and grandfather. He was always an avid supporter of all of you and we know losing family leaves holes in our lives..Walter and Nancy Lakari

Walter Paul Lakari - January 26, 2024 at 04:33 PM

ML

“ So saddened to hear this news of cousin Tom's passing. My condolences to his family and friends. Tom was a great member of the large John and Alma Marttila clan. He always came to the reunions, visited with aunts and uncles and just generally supportive of his immigrant roots. I know my Dad Ray always enjoyed visiting with Tom. He will be dearly missed by many, including myself.

Mary Marttila Lill - January 26, 2024 at 11:47 AM

CT

“ So sorry Dan, Robin and families. He will be missed Tuesday mornings at Mikes on Main by his coffee buddies. We used to see him there regularly. God be with you all.

Carol and Larry Trevillian - January 24, 2024 at 05:47 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Thomas J. Marttila.*



January 24, 2024 at 07:36 AM