



Anthony "Tony" Nertoli

October 19, 1946 - November 25, 2021

A great man who had a big, generous heart for his family and community, Anthony "Tony" Louis Nertoli, has crossed over to the spirit world to join his parents Lucille (Hatch) Nertoli and Germano (Joe) Nertoli, sister Barb and Edward "Pie" Pine, and brother Phillip (brother) and Penny Nertoli.

Of all the things he accomplished in life, Tony's greatest love was Family. A member of the Bear Clan, Tony was known as M'kwa Ogimaa ba (Bear Chief), Dad, Uncle, Papa-Misho, Nert, Papa Nert and Big Brother, Tony is survived by his son Thomas Dangler (Michaela) and grandson William; Sisters Jolene Nertoli and Catherine (Nertoli) DeVoy; Tony counts 68 Nieces and Nephews including - Michael (Becky) Pine, and sons Christopher, David, Douglas. Debra Ann (Christopher Hall) Pine, and children Alexia, Jada, Justin, Nick. Steven (Carrie) Pine and children Hunter, Samantha and Chance. Mariea (Dan) Pine-Mongene and children Joe, Jolene, Melinda. Priscilla Pine and daughter Aubrie. Becky Nertoli and children Jen, Nathan, Jordan, and Brandon. Phillip Nertoli jr. Angela (Todd) Nertoli-Filback and children Donald, Jessica, Jocelyn, Kaitlynn. Luci (Holly) DeVoy. Rita DeVoy and daughter Luna. Tony (Amy) Nertoli. Many more great, great, great nieces and nephews.

Tony's life was blessed by two additional families that he also deeply loved... his Tribe and Baseball. A decades long career began in Tony's last year of college working for TV 9/10 as a camera man. He often told the story of being

the only reporter allowed behind the barricade lines during the Bay Mills Indian Community's protest over treaty fishing rights. Tony began work for his second family, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Tony served his Tribe in many ways: as an elected Tribal Board member, a Community Developer, as well as one of the Tribe's first Appellate Judges, before settling in as the Director of the USDA Commodity Food Program. During his tenure, Tony and his staff provided food to thousands of Tribal citizens in Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas. In this role, Tony assumed additional service at the national level as President of the Native American Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR). Because of his efforts, the Sault Tribe became a national leader in addressing food insecurity in Indian Country. Serving four consecutive, two-year terms, Tony was most proud of the achievement of developing Food Distribution Centers nation-wide, that provided needy families with respect and dignity as they shopped for what they needed, including fresh foods.

Tony's third family was the Sault Baseball Team. Tony's love for the game came from his parents, "I owe everything I've achieved to them. My dad loved baseball." Generations of players have passed through the Sault program while Tony coached. Lovingly called "Papa-Nert" by his players, Tony said, "You are a coach to them for a few years and then you're part of their lives. That's what makes it so worthwhile - the relationship that you create." Tony's baseball career included induction into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2000), and the Gordon Malcolm Sportsman of the Year award (1997). After a brief retirement, Tony came back as Assistant Coach to the Sault High JV team. Tony coached and mentored many of his players to go on to bigger and better life achievements. When needed, he took care of them like his own kids, earning the nickname, Papa-Nert.

Tony told his players that there are three things that would be fine for a Coach to be remembered for: "Win more than lose, play with pride, know that someone cared". Tony will always be remembered for his inspiration to achieve, his pride in who he was/where he came from, and especially for the great love he so generously shared with his personal family, his Tribal family, and the hundreds of players and parents who were his baseball family.

A life well lived...Anthony "Tony" Lewis Nertoli 1946 - 2021

Tony will lay at the Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building from his entrance ceremony Monday afternoon until the final ceremony at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Burial will be held at Donaldson Catholic Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

TD

“ Uncle tone! He was my great uncle and also my dad, he adopted me at 19 years old, he was my protector my mentor and much more, I never knew losing you would take so much from me, ill miss you forever unc, you will always be my hero, love you

Thomas dangler - February 15, 2022 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Dear Cathy Nertoli DeVoy,
You may not remember me, but I wanted to express my condolences to you and your family at this time. I read recently in the Tribal newspaper of your brother's passing. I remember seeing your brother on the TV 9/10 news when I lived in Michigan. He was a great man and loved by his community. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
I still live in Santa Fe, NM but go back to Michigan each year for a visit. My email is theresabelanger@juno.com

Theresa J Belanger - January 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ To big tone we met on the sidelines at ahigh school football game 50 years ago, and became great friends, Lots of good times coached basketball together for lots of years, also never lost a game at the Bomb shelter. great man helped many kids.
Hes not done coaching yet god will find him a team
Your old buddy Norb

NORBERT BENNIN - December 17, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ To the family members and special friends of Tony Nertoli, please accept my sincere condolences.

I met Tony over fifty years ago growing up in the Soo. I have been away from the Soo for many years, but I fondly recall my times with Tony.

Even then, Tony was a coach, mentor, peace-maker, motivator, and friend.

He provided good counsel and taught me basketball (yes, basketball) moves under the rim. He was a fierce competitor and sportsman on the playing field. I recall Tony receiving an individual award at the end of his first year on the varsity football team.

Tony had a big laugh, a significant presence, and a big heart. A man who made a difference, and he will be missed.

*Denny Dahlman
Golden Valley, MN*

Dennis Dahlman - December 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Tony...he was Coach and friend. The "diamond" memories we made and shared are forever scored on our hearts. Well done, Coach! Godspeed, Tony...

The Ozzies

Christina Osborn - December 01, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Tony,
I want to thank you for all you have done for my Son. He looked up to you and loved playing on the Sault high baseball team! You made his high school years such a pleasure. Then to Coach along side his mentor!! I will always be in your best!! Rest In Peace

Paul perry - November 30, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*



Craig & AnnMarie Trotter - November 29, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *My sincere condolences to Tony's family. He was a great leader for FDPIR, we will miss him dearly. He always had words of encouragement for me and others.*

Marilyn King - November 29, 2021 at 12:00 AM