



David Duane Mills

April 13, 1935 - August 26, 2025

David Duane Mills, age 90, of Strongs, Michigan, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2025, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Dave was born on April 13, 1935, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to the late Melvin and Bernice (Weaver) Mills.

Dave grew up on a farm in Brimley, Michigan. While attending Brimley High School, he was a member of the 1951 Boys Basketball Class D State Championship team. After high school, he purchased his first dump truck, and his lifelong passion of trucking began. Dave owned and invested in many businesses. In the 1970's Dave started D&B Service. D&B provided tar and chip road surfacing, and lawn sod sales and installation. Dave's business partner in D&B convinced Dave and his father Melvin to begin producing lawn sod on 80 acres of the family farm. After many years, D&B Service went out of business, but the sod farm continues to this day. Dave's next business venture was purchasing a log truck and hauling logs for local wood producers. Dave's loads of logs were a beautiful sight to see as logs were equally aligned on the trailer with skill. Dave and his wife Jinny purchased a motel/restaurant in the early 1980's, and Dave prided himself as the "official taste tester".

Dave provided financial assistance to business entrepreneurs. One of those was an embroidery screening on sweatshirts business, which at the time was a very new concept. This business was also one of the first of its kind to

include a mock turtleneck on a sweatshirt which is still quite popular today.

Dave was also a musician. He played the guitar, sang, and played the banjo. His band the "Dave Mills Trio" played many of the local taverns in the area on Saturday nights and sometimes played fourteen nights in a row during deer season.

Dave is survived by his children, David (Rebecca) Mills of Eckerman, Michigan, Debra (Bill) Connolly of Sault Ste. Marie, Tami (Steve) Beseau of Strong's, Lisa (Ron) Meister of Brimley, Michigan, and Daniel (Carey) Mills of Brimley; grandchildren, Steven (Kristie) Beseau, Jason Mills, Holly (Paul) Thompson, Derek (Amanda) Beseau, David (Kalce) Mills, Taylor Mills, Katelyn Mills, Samantha (Dylan) Schroeder, and Olivia Wilcox; great-grandchildren, Aiden Beseau, Gavin Beseau, Peyton Beseau, Max Thompson, Danika Beseau, Miles Thompson, Daphne Beseau, Roslyn Mills, Rachel Adelynn Mills, Scotland Schroeder, Augustus Schroeder and Clayton Mills; brother, James Mills of Newberry, Michigan; brother-in-law, Bill Kinsella of Brimley; sister-in-law, Jo McGuire of Holt, Michigan; and many nieces and nephews.

Dave was preceded in death by his beloved wife of forty-two years, Virginia (Clarke) Mills; parents, Melvin and Bernice; and granddaughter, Rachel Ann Mills.

A Graveside Service will be held on Sunday, August 31, 2025, at 12:30 PM at the Coburn Cemetery in Strong's, Michigan. Friends and family are encouraged to attend a Celebration of Life luncheon at the Chippewa Township Hall, 30014 W. M-28, Eckerman, Michigan, following the burial at 1:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to McLaren Hospice and Palliative Care, 1 Hiland Drive, Petoskey, MI 49770.

Stories and memories of Dave, may be sent to: flfh@familylifefh.com

Family Life Funeral Home - Sault Ste. Marie, has assisted with these arrangements.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 31. 12:30 PM (ET)

Coburn Cemetery

M-28

Eckerman, MI 49728

Celebration of Life

AUG 31. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chippewa Township Hall

30014 W. M-28

Eckerman, MI 49728

Tribute Wall



“ I’m so sorry to hear about Dave’s passing. What a wonderful man! I met Dave several years ago through my Mother. He was such a fun and caring man, I loved his banjo picking! Rest in peace Dave

Dawn Sundstrom - September 02, 2025 at 08:58 AM

GJ

“ I remember many times visiting the mills family with grandma Newell. That place was like a kids paradise... so much to explore. I remember breakfast at the table aunt Jin with paperwork up to her shoulders and both her and uncle Dave having coffee and planning their day.
I remember I was always impressed by the mill’s music and thinking that they were all so talented (especially uncle Dave on the banjo!). One time I remember we all gathered in the living room and some young guy came and put on a magic show for us (again so much fun!) the guy did a particular trick and I yelled out what I thought was an explanation of how that trick was done and uncle Dave laughed and said, “ I think Georgia would like to see that trick again!”
It would always bring comfort knowing uncle Dave was in that house on that property whenever I pass by just because it’s been that way my whole life!

Georgia Jobe - August 29, 2025 at 06:22 PM

TP

“ The Layer Families and Pourcho’s purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of David Duane Mills.



The Layer Families and Pourcho’s - August 29, 2025 at 08:26 AM

TP

“ *The Layer Families and Pourcho’s planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David "Dave" Duane Mills.*

The Layer Families and Pourcho’s - August 29, 2025 at 08:26 AM

SH

“ *Tami and family. I am so sorry to hear this. It was delightful to see him at the sod farm and wave a hello. Thinking of you all. 🙏 Sherry Bertram*

Sherry - August 28, 2025 at 07:35 PM