



## Donald R. Frankovich

July 6, 1934 - July 3, 2024

Donald Raymond Frankovich, age 89, of St. Ignace, Michigan died at the Straits Area Senior Living Community in St. Ignace on July 3, 2024. He was born on July 6, 1934, in Goetzville, Michigan, to Thomas and Victoria Antionette (Malkowski) Frankovich.

Donald grew up in Goetzville and graduated from Detour High School with the Class of 1953. After graduating, he worked for Algoma Steel before joining the U.S. Army, working as an electrician and in construction for two years during the Korean Conflict. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and became a railroad worker. He met Diane Faye Wisner at a dance in Cedarville, Michigan, and they married on October 26, 1960, at the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Goetzville.

Donald loved the outdoors, especially gardening, fishing, hunting, cutting wood, or just relaxing in a chair on the back porch. He was mechanically minded and enjoyed tinkering on his vehicles and machinery. His many endeavors included personal pilot, charter boat captain, and barber. But the career he most enjoyed was trucking, making many friends along the road over coffee and sampling delicacies that he brought home for friends and family to try. Donald was known for his generosity, taking in and feeding strangers and friends alike, and donating to worthy causes. In his final years he became quite the cook, mastering the art of making chili and creamed

cucumbers, was an enthusiast of spaghetti dinners and cheering on the lady Saints basketball team.

Donald is survived by his daughters, Sherry Grondin of Burton, Michigan, Darcy Lichlyter, St Ignace, Michigan, Vicki (Mike) Hough of St Ignace, Michigan, and Jeanie (Michael) Glynn of Midland, Michigan.

Donald was preceded in death by his wife Diane Frankovich, brothers; Edward, Vernon, Wallace, and Alan Frankovich, and grandchildren Alicia Grondin and Kenneth J. Grondin.

Visitation will be held on July 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace, Michigan, with Mass at 1:00 PM and a luncheon and burial to follow.

Final Resting Place will be at the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery in St. Ignace, Michigan.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements.  
Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery

Chambers Street  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church  
120 Church  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church  
120 Church  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

## Burial

JUL 11. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Cemetery  
Chambers Street  
St. Ignace, MI 49781



# Tribute Wall

PC

“ Lots of fond memories of talking with Don and his friend John at Big Boy. Lots of stories he shared. His kindness was endless for anyone. I'm glad to have known him ..he even shared his chili with me and my sister. My condolences go out to his family. Rest in peace Don....

Penny J Chambers - July 09, 2024 at 09:05 PM

T(

Penny, he and my dad, John, were good friends. Dad will miss him.

Terri Wilson (Mundt) - July 13, 2024 at 05:35 AM

MH

“ Matt, Laurie, Donovan and Clare Higgins purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald R. Frankovich.



Matt, Laurie, Donovan and Clare Higgins - July 09, 2024 at 08:29 PM

MH

“ Matt, Laurie, Donovan and Clare Higgins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald R. Frankovich.

Matt, Laurie, Donovan and Clare Higgins - July 09, 2024 at 08:29 PM

LI

“ I got to get to know "Grandpa" Don while living up there part-time with extended family members. A favorite memory is when I was cooking up my traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner for St. Patrick's Day and heard from my daughter, that he thought that sounded good and he hadn't had it in years. So, the mere idea of it had us packing up that dinner, warm from the oven, and carting it over to his place to enjoy. And enjoy we did. What a wonderful family time with he, his grandson, Joseph and family. It was at that family dinner Don showed me that I DO like Rutabaga (prepared and seasoned properly) and that cottage cheese is best with some chopped green onion mixed into it. Other fond memories: He would just stop by, having been thinking of a great grandchild, and bring some thing in that order and hang out to visit with them. He always showed up, as long as he was able, to special events, like what felt like the hottest 4th of July one year, to hang with cronies and family, listening to his daughter's band. Observing and admiring his astounding mental clarity while most usually "beating the pants off" of his loveable opponents in Cribbage. His treating us to his favorite Big Boy buffet, back when it was still in business. And I still laugh, when confessed "Troll" that I am, returned from town one day and telling what I thought was a really cool story about how I ran into someone who "knew Don", and they all responded in unison w/ laughter: "EVERYONE KNOWS DON!!!" I will miss him. Thinking of you, Vicki, Joseph, Kenzie, and family. Praying peace and comfort for you all. Love you!

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Linda - July 09, 2024 at 12:08 PM