



Don D. Papesh

March 17, 1950 - December 21, 2024

Don David Papesh went to celebrate Christmas with his Lord and Savior on December 21, 2024. He was born on March 17, 1950 to Andrew and Jo Maxine (Seibt) Papesh. He graduated from Clare High School in 1968 where he met Dorothy Hess. On September 20, 1968, Don and Dorothy were united in marriage and shared fifty-six wonderful years together. Most of his life, Don traveled throughout Michigan and several other states selling tractors or farm equipment. His last job was working for LS Tractors. He had created many lasting relationships throughout the years. He loved to talk to people and to drive. He had a detailed map in his head of Michigan and several other states that his family could rely on to be their personal GPS, and he never got them lost! Throughout his life, no matter the circumstances or how tough it got, he NEVER complained. And if anyone would ask, he would always say, "I'm fine". In his retirement, he drove for Gladwin County Transit where he had a real heart for people, especially for the elderly, and it fulfilled his desire to be on the road. He had attended the Beaverton Baptist Church of Beaverton, MI. Don is survived by his wife Dorothy (Hess) Papesh of Clare, his daughter, Sherry (Walter) Garver of Farwell, his two sons, Andrew Papesh of Clare, and Brian (Royalyne) Papesh of Stanwood, his grandchildren, Sharayah (Thomas) Kler of Kingsley, Mi., Brandy Papesh, Catherine (Adam) Beers, Nichole (Derrek) Stressman, Scout (Sarah) Graham, his great-grandchildren Makinna Turner, Haylea Kler, Delilah and Lily Stressman, Emerly Beers, Morris Graham, and two brothers, Jan Papesh of Texas and Ted (Denice) Papesh of

Saginaw. Also surviving are his brothers-in-law, Walter (Sandy) Hess, Marty (Janet) Miller, and Gary St. John. He was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Jo Maxine Papesh, his son David Papesh, his sister-in-law Sandra St. John, his sister and brother-in-law, Loretta and Ken Warner, sister-in-law Susan Papesh, and his special aunt, Gail Renee Settles of Texas, who he went to visit as often as he was able.

Due to the holidays, a funeral service in honor of Don will take place on Friday, January 10, 2025, at the Clare Church of the Nazarene at 11:00 A.M. with Pastors Andrew Norton and Jim Young officiating, with a luncheon to follow. Burial will follow services in the Cherry Grove Cemetery of Clare at 2:00 P.M. for the family and all who would like to attend. Visitation will take place on Thursday, January 9th at the Clare Chapel of the Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Memorial contributions in honor of Don may be directed to the Beaverton Baptist Church or the Doran Foundation for ALS Clinic. For those unable to attend services, online condolences may be shared at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Cemetery Details

Cherry Grove Cemetery

1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanhf@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Visitation

JAN 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Clare)
1005 North McEwan St.
Clare, MI 48617
(989) 386-7451
wymanhf@chartermi.net
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Clare Church of the Nazarene
10160 S. Grant Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Burial

JAN 10 (ET)

Cherry Grove Cemetery
1000 Cedar St.
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Dudley and Carol Carr purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Don D. Papesh.



Dudley and Carol Carr - January 07, 2025 at 01:31 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Don D. Papesh.



December 30, 2024 at 03:41 PM

RB

“ Robert Bergey lit a candle in memory of Don D. Papesh



Robert Bergey - December 28, 2024 at 01:06 AM

MY

“ A great friend and neighbor. Will miss seeing him going past on his gulf cart, enjoying the beautiful summer days. Praying for peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Mary Yoder - December 27, 2024 at 11:26 AM

MW

“ *Mary Settles (Mike’s Widow) lit a candle in memory of Don D. Papesh*



Mary Settles (Mike’s widow) - December 26, 2024 at 05:11 PM

RF

“ *So glad we had the opportunity to come visit Uncle Don (Aunt Dorothy) in 2023. Colorado Springs may be many miles away, but the love in our hearts made you so much closer. We look forward to meet Uncle Don in Heaven when we too graduate from this life. My condolences go out to you Aunt Dorothy and to my cousins and your families. We send our love and hugs.*

Rita Hagen (Hess) and Family - December 26, 2024 at 03:45 PM

JY

I'm so grateful that Jennie and I had the privilege to know Don and Dorothy and to be their pastor for many years. Don has always been a man of his word. He loved the Lord and wasn't afraid to tell people all about Him. He had come to my rescue more than once. They have been through many painful times, but always trusted the Lord. We are going to miss him and his laugh. Great man.

James Young - December 26, 2024 at 09:58 PM

MM

“ *The road has been tough for both Dorothy and Don in the past year and a half. Jan and I are so happy that we got to stop in a number of times, when we were up in Clare, to visit with them. As Don's health got worse, and he was more and more on oxygen, he would always continue to be such a wonderful host. We had some great conversations with him and my wonderful sister, Dorothy!! Love you!!*

Marty Miller - December 26, 2024 at 03:33 PM

HZ

“ I remember Don as a dear friend. When I was in need of some things being done at my home after loosing my husband all I had to do was ask. He and Dorothy were there to help. Mowing my yard, putting up the snow fence or taking me where I needed to go. Such good friends are so hard to find. I love you both and I will miss Don's I'll be there. Rest in God Don Your work on earth is done.

Hazel Zemke - December 26, 2024 at 03:12 PM

KD

“ Don (and Dorothy) were the best neighbors you could ever ask for. Don will be missed by our entire neighborhood. Dorothy, Sherry, Brian and Andy and their families are in our prayers.

Kathy and Don David - December 26, 2024 at 01:20 PM

DR

I extend my sincere sympathy to Dorthy and the family! I was a farm equipment dealer in northern Indiana for 34 years and Don called on us for many of those years! There was no better than to represent Jesus Christ and the products he sold! We would spent a little time on products and most of our time challenging each other to be more like Jesus and caught up on our families! A very fine man, none better! May God bless all as we celebrate Don's life!!

Dave. Rader - December 26, 2024 at 05:35 PM

TR

Don was my little brother growing up and there are just. too many good times to list. He had a way with influencing people he met, quick to make them his friends. I can give him credit for sending a pastor to bring me back to God, a second revival in my life. He also was there and very supportive when I went through my divorce and would keep the depression at bay, allowing me to vent. I have to thank my brother Jan and his family for encouraging everyone to spend an afternoon this summer, talking about old times with Don. We tired him out, but it allowed us a last get together, showing the love we have for each other. It is sad, but the struggle and pain is over and you are now in the loving hands of the Father and Jesus, in your eternal home, with love ones who went before and were there to greet you. We will miss you and you will be in our thought always as time passes the hurt of loss will soften to only remembering good times. RIP little brother, till we meet again. Love Ted and Denice.

Ted A. Papesh RN - December 26, 2024 at 06:16 PM

JK

We remember Don as a wonderful Christian man and great cousin. When he would come to Pennsylvania, we always had a good time. I remember one time he came to Pennsylvania and we went to visit my mom in the nursing home. We talked about the Lord and Don lead my mom to the Lord. And, the lady in the bed next to my mom asked if he was a pastor. I said no, and she said I just said that pray to the Lord also. What a blessing that was. We believe, God said to Don, "well done good and faithful servant"

*Love,
Joe and Christine Koval*

Joe and Christine Koval - December 26, 2024 at 06:45 PM

SP

Uncle Don's love for God was apparent and he shared Christ's love with those around him. I am so thankful that I was able to visit with Uncle Don with summer. We remember what Mathew 25:23 says "Well Done good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your master"
Love, Susan

Susan Papesh - December 30, 2024 at 04:04 PM

RE

This is a poem I wrote last year and I believe it fits well for Uncle Don...

"Love Respects"

*Love is earned and love is gained,
While words and tempers are restrained,
A gentle reply turns away wrath,
While an attentive ear...widens friendships path,
Relationships need an open door,
Communication's at the core,
Kindness is an essential part,
Respecting each other's a good place to start,
A complete heart, mind & soul,
Are the ultimate goal,
Total honesty exposes our identity,
While trust is foundational for serenity,
With commitment comes security,
With laughter & joy come purity,
Life in its fullness is not a mistake,
It happens on purpose being fully awake,
Those who are a part of us and move on,
Are never forgotten but live on,
Their passing may usher in a new dawn,
But they're never truly gone,
For there's promise of a brand new day,
A timeless infinite array,
That life itself never dies,
But our divine essence will arise!
Written by: tRuth Ehlert*

Ruth Ehlert - January 06, 2025 at 11:17 AM