



Douglas R. Mienk MD

October 20, 1952 - August 8, 2025

Douglas R. Mienk MD, age 72, of Farwell, passed away surrounded by his loved ones on Friday, August 8, at My Michigan Health in Midland. Doug was born the son of Roy L. and Dianne (Green) Mienk on Oct. 20, 1952, in Detroit, Michigan. Doug and his family moved to Gladwin in 1968 when his father took over the management of the Gladwin Heights Golf Course. Doug worked for his father on the golf course doing everything from golf cart maintenance, mowing fairways and watering greens all night long. He arrived at Gladwin High as a junior in 1968 and soon realized that Gladwin and Redford Township(Detroit) were two very different places. Doug brought some Detroit style with him, showing up at school wearing black Beatle Boots, black jeans and a waist length black leather jacket, a fine look for sure but not exactly what you would see around Gladwin at the time. That of course changed over time with a bit of cultural adjustment as he and Gladwin got to know each other.

Doug was a car guy through and through and remained so for his entire life. Growing up in Gladwin in the late 1960's and early 1970's was muscle car nirvana and Doug had some beauties. His first car was a 1964 Pontiac Bonneville with many others to follow including a Corvette, Plymouth Road Runner and a Mustang Mach 1 to name a few. But probably his most memorable car, a 1963 Chevy Impala SS with a 427 and 4 speed, was arguably the fastest car in Gladwin County. Doug learned a lot from his father about auto mechanics and as a result, worked on his own cars. It was a joke

around town that Doug would blow out the rear end gears racing on Friday night and have new ones installed in time to race again Saturday night. After graduation from Gladwin High in 1970 Doug decided he wanted to become a medical nurse and with hard work, eventually achieved his LPN credentials. But he soon came to realize that he really had a passion for Medicine and caring for others and decided that he was going to Medical School where he achieved his MD in Internal Medicine. After graduation the family decided to move back to Central Michigan and the rural living that he had come to love. They relocated to Clare where he opened his medical practice in 1987. Doug had a way about him with patients that endeared him to many. He could in no uncertain terms tell a patient when they needed to get with the program but at the same time he could easily cry with them as well. He continued to serve his patients in Clare until January of 2024 when his health forced his retirement. Practicing medicine brought Doug great joy and satisfaction and it was extremely difficult for him to step away from it. That passion was followed closely by his love of hunting which was a byproduct of growing up in Gladwin. He had never hunted before moving to Gladwin but once he did, he took to it like a doctor on a stethoscope! He enjoyed hunting not only on his property in Clare but also many other areas in the United States and even other continents with family and friends.

Doug married Cheryl Sweet on September 16, 2002 and she survives him. In addition to Cheryl, he is survived by his mother, Dianne, of Gladwin, his children, Douglas Mienk, of Chicago, Tiffany Mienk, of Grand Rapids, Tom and Despoina Huber of Saginaw, Tammy and Mark Wilson of Gladwin, Ronald Barlow, of Gaylord, and Kristi and Andy Shakula of Lake, also his siblings., brothers; Roy and Brenda Mienk, Tom and Diane Mienk of Galdwin and his sister, Janice Mienk and husband Dennis Hall of Traverse City. He also had 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and many close friends. Doug was preceded in death by his son, Zachary and his father, Roy Mienk. Doug will be sorely missed by his family and many very good friends.

In keeping with Doug's desires, his family will celebrate his life with a private

gathering in his memory. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Tribute Wall

DK

“ My wife Brandie and I went to school with all of his kids. Zach and I had some classes together in high school and spent many lunch hours together, he was a great friend when I much needed him. He always put a smile on my face with his antics that often times I would participate in as well. Doug and I were friends with another group of kids that had a band and we would often end up at the same concerts together. Tiffany and myself spent a few times on the stage together during our high school drama classes. There are also a lot of times we all spent together at Ponderosa as we all worked there at some point also. We didn't know your dad well but know that his passing will have a huge impact on the community and his friends and family. We love your family and we are heart broken that your family is facing another loss. You have been and will continue to be in our prayers and thoughts.

Dan & Brandie (Kleinhardt) Ketchum - August 19, 2025 at 08:42 PM

TC

Very nice

Thomas Cach - September 03, 2025 at 07:08 PM

CH

“ I and my husband where some of his first patients when he started his practice here he was a very knowledgeable and caring physicians to come to our town. He treated both of us until we needed specialized care. He was not only our doctor but a friend as well.
Rest in peace



Carla Hilyard - August 14, 2025 at 11:39 PM

GL

“ I am so sorry to hear of his passing, he was my doctor for many years and a colleague as I am also in the medical field. He was one of the best. He cared about his patients and was a wonderful person.

May he rest in peace and my sincerest condolences to his family.

Glenn Laffy - August 14, 2025 at 05:31 PM

TR

“ My condolences to the Mienk family. Heaven gained an angel and the loss is truly felt on this earth.

Tamie Robinson - August 14, 2025 at 10:12 AM

DB

“ My condolences to Dr. Meinks family.
Dr. Meink was a great Dr, and human being.



Doris Brown - August 14, 2025 at 09:46 AM

DW

“ Doc Mienke was an amazing person. The love and care he extended to his patients is beyond words. He will be deeply missed. My condolences to his family. Loved you Doc.

Darlene K Wilkins - August 14, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ My sincere condolences. Dr. Mienk was a fabulous human being and the best doctor. 🥹

Melinda Saltzman - August 13, 2025 at 09:13 PM

BB

I will miss him. Part of the health check was the conversations we had about everything under the sun. What a great man.

Bill Bergey - August 15, 2025 at 04:11 PM

ME

My husband and I have been going to Dr. MIENK SINCE WE MOVED UP HERE IN 1991. We loved him. We were not just in and out, he always talked with us and got to know us and we felt like we were friends. Our sincerest condolences to his entire family. He will be dearly missed.

Marilyn eaton - August 19, 2025 at 10:49 AM

GL

“ Doug was an amazing mentor to me and I will forever hold his kindness and wisdom in my heart. He was smart, funny and compassionate. I learned much about practicing medicine and living life from him.

Gloria LaFollette

Gloria LaFollette - August 13, 2025 at 08:18 PM

MM

“ Doug was not only a doctor of but a dear friend that I had many a great conversation with over the years. Especially in the fall. My condolences to the family, He will dearly missed.



Mike McFarlane - August 13, 2025 at 06:16 PM

RG

“ Richard Gostomski sent a virtual gift in memory of Douglas R. Mienk MD



Richard gostomski - August 13, 2025 at 01:49 PM

RG

The best Doctor I have had the privilege to know in my 30 years of living up north. He would go above and beyond for his patients. I remember years ago when one of his patients needed to go in the hospital. he wouldn't go, Doug asked him why, he said nobody to take care of my dog. Doug took the dog home with him till the man got out of the hospital

Richard gostomski - August 13, 2025 at 01:57 PM

NI

Doug,

Was a spectacular individual loved his family, and friends, he will be missed. RIP, Doug. Niomi Mills

Niomi - August 14, 2025 at 09:49 AM