



## Donald Lloyd Bugai

December 9, 1944 - November 17, 2021

Donald Lloyd Bugai, 76, of Cedar, died November 17, 2021. He joined God's open arms while doing what he loved; heading to a cattle sale with his farming friends...complete with his turkey sandwich, Pepsi-Cola, and Little Debbie cakes.

Born December 9, 1944, at Munson Medical Center, in Traverse City, Michigan, to Helen (Kroupa) and Julius Bugai Sr.

Donald grew up in Cedar, Michigan, on the very farm he owned and operated. He knew he wanted to be a farmer and began driving tractors on his family's farm at the young age of five. Throughout his childhood, he was an active member of both the FFA and the Elmwood Lads & Lassies 4-H Club, where he proudly displayed his dairy cattle.

Donald and his wife Susann (Vask), were married March 1, 1974. This year, they happily celebrated 47 years of marriage. They went on to build a wonderful life and raise their sons in Cedar, Michigan.

As a dedicated lifelong dairy and cherry farmer, Donald was an extremely hard working man and had a soft spot for animals. Each day his mornings and evenings were busy milking and tending to cattle, with remaining daylight hours spent in the farm fields and orchards. In rare moments when Donald was able to sneak away from the farm, he enjoyed time hunting with the guys, which included several trips to Montana.

Donald was often found wearing his classic green work shirt, denim bib overalls, 5-buckle rubber boots, and a great big smile, which radiated kindness.

In recent years, Donald has shared his love for cattle with grandson, Gunner and enjoyed car rides and tossing a ball with his dog, Roscoe.

Donald is survived by wife Susann (Vask); his sons, Robert (Cathleen) Bugai and Scott (Stephanie) Bugai; grandchildren, Gunner, Grace, Brody, and Baya; his sisters, Carolyn (Eugene) Lautner, Nancy Miles, and Linda (Louie) Walter.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Julius Sr. and Helen Bugai; his older brother, Julius Bugai Jr.; and many farm animals throughout his life.

A Celebration of Life at Bugai Farm is planned for spring 2022.

Condolences and memorial contributions can be made to the Donald L. Bugai Memorial Fund, to support future youth in agriculture.

Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Don and his family are being cared for by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services North.

# Comments

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“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Donald Lloyd Bugai. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. [Click here to view selections on our website](#)

**Send Flowers** - November 23, 2021 at 11:25 AM

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“ When I was a teen my car rolled down his driveway and into a 100lb propane tank outside the dairy barn. I barely knew him and he chuckled and said you owe my a six pack of Pepsi for denting that. We need more people like him in this world. RIP I do make it right with him by the way and paid my dues.

**Brandon Buchler** - November 23, 2021 at 08:23 PM



“ I can totally see my father-in-law saying that. Him and his Pepsi! Thanks for sharing.

**Cathleen Bugai** - November 24, 2021 at 07:05 AM

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“ Donald was a good man and good neighbor, he was always willing to help me out or lend a piece of equipment. I enjoyed stopping to visit and talk farming with him in the milk house. I would try to get him talking about what the area was like when he was younger and what farming was like back then, I think he liked telling me about it. He will be missed. My heart goes out to his family. -Reid Johnston

**Reid Johnston** - November 23, 2021 at 03:40 PM

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“ On behalf of the Kroupa Family- we want to express our deepest and most sincere condolences. Donald was more than a friend, he was family. To know Donald was to appreciate him. The one word that comes to mind when I think of "Uncle" Donald- is HUMBLE. He was truly the most humble man I knew. I was first introduced to "Uncle" Donald in 2004 after I started dating Bear. This former Yooper girl had never been around anything other than horses (and dogs) in my life. My first footstep into the milking parlor and barn introduced me to the sounds, sights and smell of dairy farming. Don was always doing something- tinkering on his old tractors, feeding or milking his gals, taking care of his fields or out shopping with his lovely wife. Never a dull moment in his life. Ever. Bear would steal away to spend hours visiting Uncle Donald at the farm- I always knew where he had been by his clothes and the barn smell. He told me that if there ever was a personal concern or issue- Uncle Donald was the one to talk to. He'd be sure to make things look better and take on a positive note . I never took him up on this, but I know that Bear did. From baby calves sucking on our fingers, to the sweet treats ALWAYS ontop of the milk cooler tank, to the farm routine engraved in Don's memory. He was an important man to us. I hope he realized how loved and appreciated he truly was to so many, and especially our little family. We will cherish the memories and the lessons he taught us. Everyone should have the opportunity to have an "Uncle " Donald in their life. He truly was a one of a kind "Gem".

God SPEED Sir, until we see you on the other side, know you were loved and appreciated so very much! You were what Bear needed so many years ago. Thank you. Thank you for imparting so much of your time, knowledge, humor, and patience with him. Your loss has touched him to the core. All of us.

Love always from Gary \*Bear\*, Kim, Chris and Emma Kroupa

Kim Kroupa - November 23, 2021 at 12:33 PM