



Donald E. Sexton

March 12, 1928 - January 19, 2012

Donald E. Sexton, 83, of Watervliet died Thursday, January 19, 2012, at the South Haven Nursing Home.

A Mass celebrating his life will be held at 11 AM on Tuesday, January 24, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Watervliet with Fr. John Peter officiating. Burial will be in Keeler Township Cemetery. The family will receive friends and relatives from 5 PM to 8 PM on Monday at the Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Coloma where Liturgical Prayers will be held at 7 PM on Monday. Memorials may be made to the family. Please share memories, messages or photos at www.florin.net.

Don was born on March 12, 1928 to Ford and Evelyn (Northrup) Sexton. He married his wife, Margaret Zehner, in 1949 and she preceded him in death on June 17, 2007. Together they celebrated 58 years of marriage. Don was a machinist at Whirlpool Corp for over 40 years before retiring 1987. He was always involved with his children's building projects. He enjoyed playing his banjo and listening to music. After Don retired he wrote a book on his life story which will always be cherished. Don will be missed for all of his wisdom and knowledge.

He is survived by his 11 children, David (Shirley) Sexton of Watervliet, Donald (Kathy) Sexton, Jr, of Watervliet, Bonnie Carnell of Grand Haven, Thomas

(Jessie) Sexton of Bangor, Marie (Bruce) Pethe of Watervliet, Catherine (Dave) Oakley of Homer, Annette (Don) Nichols of Watervliet, Marge (Greg) Wildeman of Watervliet, Timothy Sexton of Coloma, James Sexton of Watervliet, and Robert (Kirstie) Sexton of Watervliet; his 38 grandchildren; his 28 great grandchildren and his 1 great great grandchild. He was also preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard.

Cemetery Details

Keeler Township Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **23**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Davidson Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
249 East Center Street
Coloma, MI 49038
(269) 468-3181
staff@florin.net

Service

JAN **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Lucinda Lane
Watervliet, MI 49098

Tribute Wall



“ *Lyndsey Schaefer lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Sexton*



Lyndsey Schaefer - January 31, 2012 at 12:12 PM



“ *Never had a chance to meet Donald but I know his granddaughter. If he was anything like her, the world lost a wonderful person. All our thoughts and prayers go out to Donald's family. He's in a better place, looking down on his family with pride.*

Mike - January 23, 2012 at 10:48 AM

JB

“My memories go back to when i first united with my Sexton family in Michigan at age 6. i put a turtle in my mouth and 1st cousin Donald filmed it. i have had many memorable times at the house on the lake and later out on the farm clearing and cutting trees to build the house. At the house by the lake, Me, Donnie and David walked around the lake having boy fun. some dork pushed me in the water off the peer across the lake and Donnie and David scared the hell out of him. they told him "billy can't swim, touch him again and your dead!" Another time i remember I jumped off the shoulders of Donald at the peer just back of the house. I went down and down and down. Honestly, I thought, when am i gonna stop going down. Little donnie & David were teaching me to swim & taught me to kick my feet and pull water with my arms when under water, i did that trying to get back to the surface. It seemed like an eternity until my lungs tasted air again. I remember picking berries for \$8 dollars a flat thinking how the hell does Don and David pick so much. they were so fast. I climbed up a tree and fell asleep. every one was yelling trying to wake me up before i fell out of that tree. That was the year i got sick and Margret took me to the doctor. I had tonsilitis, high fever, dizzy, and could not stand up straight i was so dizzy. she held on to me keeping me from falling on my ass, and half carried, half drug me into the doctors office. She sure took good care of me. I felt she loved me like i was her own. Donald and Margret always welcomed me and treated me with love and kindness. Those memories are the most wonderful of my childhood. You all will always be my family. I miss Don & all the stories he liked to tell me about my dad when he was younger and my grandpa sexton who i never met. I loved setting with him listening to him tell me about my dads younger years. He even told me my mom came to Michigan and worked at a drug store there at one time. That was something none of the Sexton family in indiana or kentucky knew about. I miss making maple syrup with him and the boys. I miss the camp fires, cutting trees with Bobby, and hunting with Tom and Donnie. You guys froze my ass off when you shot those two deer. OMG colder than hell. Ha Ha Ha. I miss going to the farm with uncle Ford. He gave me my first taste of home made wine. I got sick trying to chew

his tobacco in his truck. He laughed and almost wrecked the truck when i accidentally swallowed a bunch of chaw! Donald heard about it and laughed and laughed. Donald took me to uncle Ford's farm and let me shoot a hand gun he made. it knocked me and my dad both on our ass. Yea, i had many happy lazy summers up there in wonderland. I will sorely miss one of the greatest men in my life, Donald Sexton.

john william sexton AKA Billy - January 23, 2012 at 10:09 AM

AS

“ *ATT Kalamazoo Area Switching purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald E. Sexton.*



ATT Kalamazoo Area Switching - January 23, 2012 at 07:39 AM

JS

“ *Jessica Sexton lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Sexton*



Jessica Sexton - January 22, 2012 at 09:01 PM

JS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Jessica Sexton - January 22, 2012 at 08:57 PM

JS

Kyle loved spending time with his Great Grandpa and riding with him in his wheel chair.

Jessica Sexton - January 22, 2012 at 08:59 PM

TI

“ *You will be truly missed. I loved going fishing with you grandpa and how you would always things will get better in life and they did. I remember when I came home from boot camp and u told me these words at a boy you did it I am so proud of you. I will always look back and see yours and grandmas face when I came threw that door. I will never forget. Also how we used to go for your daily bike ride down county line road to 94. I love and miss you so much grandpa.*

Thomas R Sexton II - January 22, 2012 at 08:43 PM

LM

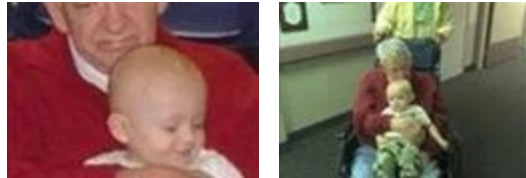
“ I have added These photo so everyone can see how much Donald Loves his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.He will forever be in my heart and the heart of others. He truely was a great loving man.

Love your granddaughter,
Lila Dell Mickles

Lila Mickles - January 22, 2012 at 07:36 PM

LM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Lila Mickles - January 22, 2012 at 07:31 PM

LM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lila Mickles - January 22, 2012 at 07:26 PM

LM

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Lila Mickles - January 22, 2012 at 07:21 PM

LM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lila Mickles - January 22, 2012 at 07:17 PM

LM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Lila Mickles - January 22, 2012 at 07:09 PM

SB

“ I don't think that I can begin to just share a single memory since a lot of my junior and senior year were spent on the Sexton farm. It always seemed like there was so much to do, but everything involved fun. Whether it was taking care of the little ones, helping with the pigs being born, or corn fights in the back of the pick up, stacks of dishes after meals, and gathering maple sap for syrup in the spring, everyone pitched in. Donald and Margaret always made me feel like one of the family. Despite the fact that they had so many of their own children they never minded a few more. I learned a lot about life from them, I admired their devotion to each other and their family values. As their generation continues to pass on to eternity, I can only hope the standards and values they stood for will be passed on in this life. They had a legacy of honesty, hard work, faith, and family. Their word meant something to them and they stood by it. God has taken home a good man, a wonderful father, a faithful husband, and an excellent friend and example for all. Hard shoes to fill. I am grateful for the times I had with him and his family. Those experiences will stay forever in my soul. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all of you. Sheri Coburn Bromley

Sheri Coburn Bromley - January 22, 2012 at 05:57 PM