



## Donald John Winarski

February 21, 1936 - November 15, 2021

Donald J. Winarski, 85, of Warren was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend. His humor, caring, and kindness were beloved traits that we will cherish forever. He brought much laughter and love to our lives. Don passed away on November 15, 2021. He was the son of John and Pauline Winarski, and is survived by his wife Janet, brother Ralph (Joanne), Sister-in-law Irene, children Donna (Bill) O'Keefe, Kathleen (Dave) Jablonski, Lori (John) Goudie, Rick (Lisa) Winarski, and Randy (Beth) Winarski, as well as thirteen grandchildren (Billy, Shawn, Patrick, Ashley, Brooke, Katelyn, Michael, Delanie, Jonathan, Madalyn, RJ, Jordynn and Jillian) and four great-grandchildren (Nora, Emma, Lennon and Theo).

Don and Janet were married 63 years. They loved entertaining at their "farm" in Carsonville entertaining family and friends. One of Don's most favorite times at the farm was opening day deer hunting season. Oh how he loved all the planning, food and fun that came with this day. Don waited this year for the guys to get their first hunt in before he passed on opening day evening.

Don was born February 21, 1936 in Detroit, where he was raised. He loved being at the farm, hunting, and animals.

Don was a draftsman at General Motors for over 25 years. He took great pride

in the drafting designs he created for the upcoming new vehicles during that time.

Don's family was his top priority. He was very dedicated to his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral Visitation will be held on Friday, November 19, 2021 at Sullivan Funeral Home (8459 Hall Rd., Utica, MI). The family will receive family and friends from 2 pm - 8 pm. There will be a prayer service and memory sharing at 7 pm. Mass will be held at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI) on Saturday, November 20, 2021. In-state beginning at 10:30 am, mass follows at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Don's name to the Alzheimer's Association (<<https://act.alz.org/donate>>) or Capuchin Soup Kitchen ([www.cskdetroit.org](http://www.cskdetroit.org) <<http://www.cskdetroit.org>>).

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 19. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Red Hat Society File By

NOV 19. 2:30 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Scripture Service

NOV 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Instate

NOV 20. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church  
28353 Herbert Street  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

## Funeral Mass

NOV 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church  
28353 Herbert Street  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ Pa,

*I would like to thank you for giving us a truly amazing sanctuary. I know the farm became the favorite spot for everyone, from hunting and fishing, to riding dirt bikes and quads, or just walking the trails - even Lennon now says it is his favorite spot to go.*

*We are all going to miss your jokes and the fact that you were always up for one more drink with a great conversation.*

*You will truly be missed! You helped to create such an amazingly loving and successful family.*

*We Love You!*

*-Shawn, Juliette, Lennon, and Theo*

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**Shawn** - November 28, 2021 at 08:52 PM

BC

“ *On behalf of the Capuchin brothers I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Donald. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of his life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Winarski family during this great time of grief. I have placed Donald's name at the tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey. May perpetual light shine upon Donald.*

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**Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin** - November 22, 2021 at 11:26 AM

KA

“ Hi Pa,

*Thank you for your silly jokes you would whisper to me when we'd sit on the swing up north together.*

*Thank you for all the love you gave me no matter what.*

*Thank you for all the memories I will forever hold near and dear to my heart. There are so many memories that we've shared and that will live on with us forever but one of my favorites is when Gma was teaching me how to make scrubbies up north and when you asked to see one when I was done you got the biggest smile and said "keep it going kid!"*

*You will be missed so much Pa.  
I love you so much,*

*Katelyn*

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**Katelyn** - November 21, 2021 at 12:54 AM

JH

“ Pa, thank you for all the love and laughter you brought into our lives. Thank you for welcoming Ian with open arms and always sharing your jokes and chocolates with us. You always knew how to put a smile on everyone's face. Thank you so much for teaching us what it means to be a polak and for always bringing the family so close together. You will be missed dearly. I hope you're eating all the chocolate and drinking all the brandy in heaven. Love, Jordynn and Ian

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**Jordynn and Ian Holland** - November 19, 2021 at 08:58 PM

JG

“ Thank you ladies for alway bringing me fresh krispykreams and go to menards yo save big money! Thank you for all you advise and jokes they won't be forgot

Love,  
Jonathan

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**jonathan goudie** - November 19, 2021 at 01:17 PM

DE

“ Hi Pa,

*Thank you for all of the laughs and smiles. I will always enjoy thinking about our boat rides in the summer and you sneaking the grand kids candy before dinner. One of my favorite memories with Pa was our yearly trips to Frankenmuth in August and going to Zenders and getting the hot turkey sandwich. You will be missed.*

Love,  
Delanie

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**Delanie** - November 19, 2021 at 01:12 PM

O'

“Pa we will all miss you greatly. I wish our kids could have had more time with you to experience all of the fun and love you have always shared. I will never forget all the things you taught me, the days with you tinkering and fixing things taught me so many lessons that I have used my entire life. I know that Slim Jim containers are the best things to hold all the random parts and bolts in my garage. You can never have too many gas cans in the garage, that way all the toys and lawnmowers are ready to go. You taught me how to change brakes and do oil changes. You told me, “If I want to ride it, I need to learn how to start”, which led to some of my greatest lessons and fun. Because of you I know that catfish love frogs and hot dogs. I know that a good story to a salesman at Sears, could lead to more tools in my toolbox without ever opening my wallet. I could always count on you wanting to actually talk and ask questions about what was going on with my life and what I was doing. You welcomed Jess in like she has been around forever, between how warm and open you always were, along with you and her having the same dirty jokes, she immediately felt at home with you. The time she spent with you, your jokes, stories, and love made her feel so welcomed but also reminded her of her Grandpa Don and I want to thank you for that. I will miss the days of playing checkers, fixing things, fishing, and stories with you. “Na Zdrowie!!!”, Pa, we love you and will miss you. Billy, Jess, Nora, and Emma.

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O'Keefe's - November 19, 2021 at 12:18 PM

MW

“ Dear Pa,

*Thanks to your affinity for crab legs and dessert, I will always remember Sunday dinners with you and Gma. Your joking nature truly brought joy to every occasion. We love and miss you so much but know you will always be here with us.*

*Love,  
Madalyn*

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**Madalyn Winarski** - November 19, 2021 at 11:32 AM

BR

“ Pa, there’s so many great memories you gave me. One that holds a special place is all the card games you would start by just watching. But eventually we would talk you into playing a couple rounds with us, only for you to win every time and steal our money! Thank you for all you did for me and always putting a smile on everyone’s face. You will be missed but will forever be in our memories. We love you.

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**Brooke** - November 19, 2021 at 11:07 AM

 Ashley  
Jablonski

“ Here are some of my favorite memories of Pa:

- trying to slip you a \$20 every time you came to visit and when you turned him down he got mad at you
- First question pa always asked you when you came over: “whatcha pay for gas lately”
- Coming to my college graduation in a blizzard
- Pa stealing every child’s nose at least one time in their life
- Pa’s Irish goodbye every Christmas
- Pa’s hat collection
- When you stayed the night at Gma and Pa’s, Pa always trying to feed you candy late at night and grandma getting mad

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**Ashley Jablonski** - November 19, 2021 at 10:55 AM

Jl

“ Hi Pa ,

*Thank you for always slipping me candies and chocolates when my parents weren't looking. You taught us all the real way to be a polak and it's through black berry brandy! We are all so grateful for the farm which has become a very special place all to thanks to you. P.S.... thanks for getting me on a lotto kick early. We will miss you.*

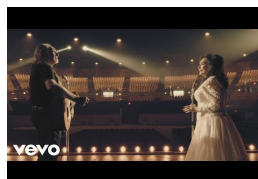
*Love you, Jillian and Sebastian*

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jillian - November 19, 2021 at 10:20 AM

Bl

“ *This one is for my father-in-law, Donald Winarski (Dad) who we lost this week. Dad always treated me and everyone who came into his life as a family member and friend. He was quick with a joke, and a shot and beer. And boy could he clear a dance floor at any of the hundreds of Polish weddings we attended by kicking up his heels and letting out a scream as a Polka filled the hall. I posted last week what happens as I would leave any Polish gathering. I call it the "goodbye tour" because of the number of people and times you hug and say goodbye to everyone at the event. As I complain and joke about the "Goodbye Tour" it strikes me how I wish I could have one more shot & a beer and hug and kiss from the only person in my life other than my father that I love and respect enough to call dad. So Dad do widzenia until we meet again. Sharing this song by Willie Nelson and Loretta Lynn: Lay Me Down.. Love you - Bill*



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Bill - November 19, 2021 at 08:16 AM

LW

“ Love, Darin, Pam, Chris, Grace Winarski purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald John Winarski.



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**Love, Darin, Pam, Chris, Grace Winarski** - November 18, 2021  
at 10:02 PM

RJ

“ Hey Pa. I can't thank you enough for all the life lessons you have taught me. Like where to hide my chocolate and how to sneak away early to get to bed by to "dropping the kids off at the pool". You will and always have been such an amazing role model. Hope you are still giving the best tractor rides in Heaven.

Love you RJ & Sav

P.S Charlies misses your pets and sneaking her people food

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**RJ** - November 18, 2021 at 07:16 PM

MI

“ I remember Pa around hunting season always asking "hey, how many deer you get",,,,me having to find the courage to tell him that I haven't gotten anything yet. Somehow him wishing me luck the next I went up always worked out and always got a deer. Pa was my good luck charm when it came to hunting. Lots of love, Michael

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**Michael** - November 18, 2021 at 07:02 PM

PA

“ I will always remember walking anywhere near the pond at the farm and from the distance I would hear Pa scream " where's you life jacket!!!" even though I was 20 years old. Grandpa always was looking out for us and will always and forever be looking over us keeping us safe. Love you Pa -Pat and Taryn

Patrick - November 18, 2021 at 06:48 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Donald John Winarski.



November 18, 2021 at 05:26 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald John Winarski.



November 18, 2021 at 04:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald John Winarski.



November 18, 2021 at 01:06 PM

DO

“ Hey dad - I miss you more than you'll ever know. You were the best dad ever and always there for us. Never knew what extra animal you might bring home from hunting. Like the time you brought home that basset hound and he dragged our picnic table off the patio. You prepared me for life and I'm the person I am today because of you. Love you - Donna and Bill

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**Donna** - November 18, 2021 at 12:54 PM

TF

“ The Rosiek Family purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Donald John Winarski.



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**The Rosiek Family** - November 18, 2021 at 10:30 AM