



## Daniel Joseph Waina

January 21, 1933 - April 19, 2021

Daniel Joseph Waina, 88, of Mentor, OH, passed away April 19, 2021, peacefully at home with family. He was born January 21, 1933 in Cleveland, OH, of Lithuanian immigrants (Ellis Island).

Dan attended St. Aloysius, graduated from Benedictine High School, and attended Fenn College in Cleveland, OH. After high school, as a butcher, he became a member of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters of Butcher Workmen of North America. Later, he enlisted with the U.S. Coast Guard (Staten Island, NY) where he was a crew member upon the vessels patrolling New York City Harbor. For over 35 years, he was a proud employee of the Fisher Body Division of General Motors (Coit Rd) as a Master Tool and Die craftsman. He also successfully owned and operated Waina & Sons Excavating, Mentor, OH, for over 40 years.

Dan was deeply committed to his Catholic faith and thoroughly enjoyed serving his parish communities throughout his life. He had an adventurous spirit and looked forward to introducing everyone he met to the activities he loved. He was an avid lifetime snow skier, not only teaching his children to ski at Mont Chalet (Chesterland, OH) and enjoying a lifetime of memories skiing with his family and friends at Peek'n Peak Ski Resort (Clymer, NY), but also traveling with his family to many other ski destinations. He was a 40+ year member of the National Ski Patrol earning NSP's highest volunteer distinction. He enjoyed bicycling and, as a 10-year participant, was delighted in joining others in completing the 450-mile RAGBRAI ride across Iowa. Growing up near the shores of Lake Erie, he handcrafted his first boat when he was 12-years old alongside his first dog where he discovered his love of water and dogs. Breeding German Shepherds for a short while, he always had a dog by his side that loved him as much as he loved them.

His tradition for making Sunday morning waffles was one of the many bedrocks of family time. He cherished being with his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews laughing and sharing his passion for life creating unforgettable memories. All of this culminated at Findley Lake, NY, where, for over 50

years, he especially enjoyed extending his life experiences for generations to come and expressing his love of faith, family and friends.

He is survived by his loving companion, Vicki Smith; daughter, Mary (Robert) Green, and sons, Gregory (Nancy), Dennis, Patrick, Daniel A. (Rebecca Weaver), Thomas, Joseph (Christine), Michael (Beth Portner), and Christopher (Mirella) Waina; 16 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and many close nieces and nephews.

Daniel was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Mae Waina (Ryan); his parents, Joseph and Petranella Waina; and his sisters, Ruth (Frederick) Waldhauer, Alice (Arnold) Ayers, and Patricia Waina.

Family and friends will be received from 10-12 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 8560 Mentor Ave, Mentor, OH 44060. A funeral mass will follow at 12 p.m. at the church. Burial with military honors will take place in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH. Masks are required and social distancing is encouraged during all publicly attended events.

Arrangements entrusted to Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Daniel's memory may be made to: Christ Our Hope (St. Matthias) Catholic Church Cemetery Fund, 1762 French Creek Mina Road, Clymer, NY 14724; or the National Ski Patrol (<http://www.nsp.org>).

Please offer condolences at <http://www.brunners.com>

# Cemetery

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**All Souls Cemetery**  
10366 Chardon Rd.  
Chardon, OH, 44024

# Events

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**APR 24 Visitation 10:00AM - 12:00PM**  

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**24**  
St. Mary Of The Assumption Church  
8560 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH, US, 44060

**APR 24 Funeral Mass 12:00PM**  

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**24**  
St. Mary Of The Assumption Church  
8560 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH, US, 44060

# Comments

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“ Mr Waina welcomed his son’s friends to their Findley Lake house and was very generous to a host of passers through and party animals that parachuted in for a long weekend. Sincerest condolence to the Waina family.

Tom Bjerstedt  
Mandeville, LA



**Thomas Bjerstedt** - April 27 at 04:49 PM

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“ Dan will be missed on Brownell Road in Clymer. Enjoyed watching him mowing and playing with the dog for many years.

~Sara Michael

**Sara Adams** - April 25 at 11:19 AM

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“ To the Waina family,

Uncle Dan was a special man. He taught me how to water ski @ Findlay Lake. More importantly, he taught me how important it was to enjoy the time we have with others. He always took the time to stop by and enjoy each other’s company. I truly enjoyed the conversations and all the laughs we had together.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joe and Nancy O.

**Joe Osowski** - April 23 at 08:07 PM

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“ Rich and Jill Green and Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



Rich and Jill Green and Family - April 23 at 07:47 PM

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“ Mr. Waina was the legend of Findley Lake. He and his family adopted our family at the lake and taught us how ski, tube, drink beer, party, and have a ball. We grew up with the Waina's on the weekends at the lake And had an incredible time. He will be missed!

Classic Waina line - “ no pain no gain!!” Doing 50 mph on a truck tube behind their vintage Chris Craft - that bloody nose was so worth it!!

Joe Arcadi

Joseph Arcadi - April 23 at 06:01 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 23 at 01:09 PM

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“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 23 at 10:35 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 23 at 08:47 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album 20 minute Video/Slideshow Family Tribute



Mary Green - April 22 at 10:36 PM



“ Absolutely beautiful, wonderful video. The words of May Sarton's poem, All Souls, whispered to me as I watched -

“Dear child, what has been once so interwoven

Cannot be raveled, nor the gift ungiven.

... What has been plaited cannot be unplaited -

... And memory makes kings and queens of us.”

I am sorry for your loss and so appreciative of the many gifts you have received, are part of, and share with many.

Mary Michaelae (Beth's mom)

Mary Scribner - April 24 at 07:58 AM



“ Beautiful video showing a great man who loved his family and was loved by his family.

Prayers to the Waina family.

Dan and Alison Brumenshenkel

Alison - June 01 at 10:08 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 22 at 10:34 PM



“ Margaret E. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



**Margaret E.** - April 22 at 12:45 PM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 22 at 10:54 AM

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“ Great Family Friend, Great Father, Great man who open his heart and home to all. I will remember all the fun times spent with him on Ohio, at the family house and lake in New York and skiing at Peak and Peek. He always had a smile on his face and in his heart.  
I will dearly miss him.

Sandra Anderson-Varanese

**Sandra Anderson Varanese** - April 22 at 09:49 AM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 22 at 09:15 AM

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“ I will always remember Grandpa Dan for his humor, his waffles, his zest for life, and for teaching me how to sail up at Findley Lake. May his legacy live on in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We love you.

Love,

Kristen



**Kristen Powell** - April 21 at 10:11 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 21 at 10:03 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Family Tribute



**Julie Green** - April 21 at 06:43 PM



“ Awww that is so beautiful xx Such lovely memories of a wonderful man xx love you Jennie xx

**Jennie** - April 22 at 01:46 PM



“ Dan and Donna made myself and my ex wife so welcome when we arrived in America,beautiful couple and family.. Tucka Wilkinson

**Thomas Wilkinson** - April 23 at 01:05 AM



“ This was such a beautiful video! Amazing pictures and incredible memories of a huge and loving family. Great job and thank you for sharing it.

**Tanya** - April 24 at 07:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



April 21 at 06:36 PM



“ Rest in peace Mr. Waina! You will be greatly missed but the family has been blessed with so many wonderful memories. One of my favorite memories is when the whole Weaver family visited Becky and Dan at their house at Findlay Lake. Mr. Waina and Vicki came over to participate in the festivities, it was a cold and snowy weekend, we played charade's and I had the honor of being on Mr. Waina's team. What a hoot he was and I ended up calling him by boyfriend. I also remember when Matt and I went to Columbus to celebrate with Dan, his son, on his receiving of his Professional Engineers Degree and ring. Mr. and Mrs. Waina surprised Dan by showing up and we all went out to dinner. It was a wonderful day and we also got to celebrate their anniversary with them. He will remain in my heart, with his warm smile and gentle hugs! So many memories and years with the Waina family. Keep hold of those wonderful memories and, in time, this will get easier. Love you all! Kim and Matt Puskus

**Kim Puskus** - April 21 at 03:31 PM

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“ Marous Brothers Construction purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Daniel Joseph Waina.



**Marous Brothers Construction** - April 21 at 03:14 PM