



Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016



Scan to Visit



FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016

Funeral services for Donald Clayton Ramsey Jr. (Donnie) of Half Moon Bay, California will be held at Skylawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park in San Mateo, California at 2:00 pm on August 26, 2016. The family will receive friends during 12:00 – 2:00 pm at Skylawn Funeral Home. Mr. Ramsey (Donnie) passed away August 16, 2016 at home. Donnie was born March 20, 1966 at Fort Sanders Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee to Mildred Lucille Ray Ramsey and Donald Clayton Ramsey, Sr. He is the grandson of William H. and Artie Ellison Ray and Carl and Shan Donaldson Ramsey and great grandson of Jimmy and Blanche Ramsey all of Harrogate Tennessee. Donnie professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ at an early age and he was baptized at the Eastwood Baptist Church where he remained a member until death. Donnie grew up in Cookeville Tennessee where he attended the Tennessee Tech Campus School, Northeast Elementary, Cookeville Junior High School and Cookeville Senior High School where he graduated in May of 1984. Donnie received numerous awards during his high school years. While in high school, he was chosen to appear in the Who's Who Among American High School Students. While in high school, he received an award from "Concerned Citizens For The Retarded" for his outstanding service in teaching retarded citizens of all ages how to swim. He was chosen to participate in the Summer Challenge '83 residential program at Vanderbilt University where invited scholarly high school students came to campus in Nashville for a summer of academic instruction and on-campus life. In April 1984, Donnie was selected and recognized by Governor Alexander and the State of Tennessee Department of Education, for his outstanding achievement in the area of Comprehensive Education. Governor Alexander hosted a dinner honoring him as one of the winners in the Tennessee Honors Program. After graduation from Cookeville High School, Donnie received a James W. Stewart, Jr. full scholarship to study engineering at Vanderbilt University. According to Ramona Tilghman,



Obituary

Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016

Guidance Counselor at Cookeville High, “competition for these scholarships is of the highest academic nature. Seniors from public and private high schools throughout the nation applied for these scholarships”, she added. Donald was offered scholarships at Vanderbilt University, Rice University, USMA West Point, the Air Force Academy, the University of Tennessee and Tennessee Tech. In 1988 Donnie graduated from Vanderbilt University Summa Cum Laude with double majors in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. While at Vanderbilt, he was the State Representative for the National Society of Professional Engineers. He was Sports Editor for Vanderbilt Video Productions, Ex Officio member Engineering Council, President IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Association. In 1988, Donnie received an Office of Naval Research (ONR) Washington D.C. full graduate fellowship to attend post graduate school at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where he did post-graduate study in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He was co-author of a publication “Naval Environmental Operational Nowcasting System (NEONS)” presented at the Sixth International Conference on Interactive Information and Processing Systems of the American Meteorological Society in 1990. He was a Tau Beta Pi Fellow. He was a member of several professional and honorary organizations namely IEEE, AC Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta. During his career in the computer industry, Donnie worked at several computer design companies in the Silicon Valley area of California, during the last decade at the Apple Computer Company. His contribution at Apple was incorporated in the 3 Apple products iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch. Donnie loved music and he was an accomplished pianist, organist and classical guitarist. He was a trumpet player in the Cookeville High School Marching Band and in the Vanderbilt University marching band. He served as church organist at Eastwood Baptist Church for several years. He became a licensed airplane pilot in the year 2000. Donnie loved playing a game of golf with his father and friends. In fact, one summer, they hardly missed a day of playing golf at many different golf courses. Also, Donnie loved snow skiing and traveled to lots of ski resorts to enjoy that activity. He also introduced his parents to snow skiing and they traveled to several resorts to enjoy skiing together. Donnie was an avid ice skater for the past 15 years. He really enjoyed ice dancing. He is survived by his wife Karen



Obituary

Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016

Pieper and their children; a daughter, Samantha Ramsey and twin sons Ian Donald Ramsey and Clayton William Ramsey. He is sadly missed by his mother Mildred Lucille Ramsey; father Donald C. Ramsey, Sr. and a host of family and friends. Pallbearers: Dave Reha, Clark Anderson, Chris Tadevich, Tom Chanak, Alan Gilchrist, Phil Angelico



Tribute Wall

Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016

DH

David Hume posted:

Don and Lucille, May God comfort you and the family in this time of bereavement. Donnie was a wonderful son, and he had wonderful parents. You, Karen, and the children are in my thoughts and prayers. David Hume

August 29 at 2:24 PM

JS

Joel Seber posted:

Lucille and Don, I'm so sorry to hear about Donnie. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and the rest of your and Donnie's family.

August 29 at 1:00 AM

KH

Kay Hume posted:

Don and Lucille and family, Many prayers for you. Donnie was an amazing person. We have been thinking of you every day and praying for you. We know you are heartbroken. Just know we are always here for you. Kay

August 28 at 3:03 PM

EB

Eric Brown posted:

Dr. and Mrs. Ramsey, my sincerest sympathies during this time of grieving. You will be in our prayers. May the Father bring you comfort during this time of loss. Eric Brown

August 26 at 9:07 AM

GB

Glenda Qualls Bates posted:

Donnie was a good friend as well as my classmate at CHS. I remember his brilliance in everything he did but most of all, I remember his love and kindness to others. I moved to Cookeville just a before my Junior year of HS which is a difficult age to transition to a new school. Donnie made me feel welcome immediately and we became good friends those last two years of high school. My heart breaks for his family and I pray that knowing how many loved him helps bring some comfort. Praying for peace for all of you. Glenda Qualls Bates

August 25 at 7:08 AM



Tribute Wall

Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016

EM

Earl Maddux posted:

Don and Lucille – Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. There are no words of comfort great enough to ease your pain, but remember that God walks beside you. He will never leave you and He will always comfort you. Earl Maddux Cookeville, TN

August 25 at 6:17 AM

SB

Sandra Bohannon posted:

I have such good memories of my friendship with Donnie. We went to church and school together as young kids and on in to our teenage years. He and his mom and dad hold a special place in my heart. Don and Lucille – I am so very sorry for your loss. Donnie was blessed to have you as parents – and you were blessed to have him. He's walking on streets of gold now. No pain and no sadness there. I'll bet my sweet mom has welcomed him with open arms and they are exchanging precious memories of Eastwood Baptist. My heart breaks for you both. Love and hugs and prayers, Sandra Maddux Bohannon Cookeville, TN

August 25 at 3:57 AM

BB

Becky Brewster posted:

I am another first cousin of Donnie's from East Tennessee. Early on, Kermit the frog was a constant companion when he would come over to visit or go on any outing. I recall many weekends, holidays, family celebrations and reunions playing those board games Rena talked about earlier with Donnie and other cousins, siblings, aunts and uncles. We also spent many hours playing "Trouble." Donnie and I loved to see how many times we could send each other back to "home" during a game. Donnie was an excellent strategic thinker, so he was nearly impossible to beat at anything. He wanted to be the best. Of course, it was instilled in all of us to give our best effort, and it is evident that Donnie was giving his best effort his entire life. We had a great deal of fun together growing up with our other cousins. Our families made it a point to get together to work together and play together. Our parents, aunts and uncles demonstrated family values, work ethic, and caring for each other. I will always remember Donnie's smile and laugh, and how very smart he was in his approach to everything. My heart goes out to all Donnie's family and friends. Love, Becky

August 24 at 1:59 PM



Tribute Wall

Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016

BW

Beth Wilson posted:

I hold his family in my heart during this difficult time and send daily prayers. I have been fortunate to be part of their lives for almost 6 years being entrusted with caring for the children—each one a talented and unique individual in their own right—offering support, guidance and laughter during life's inevitable challenges. Don deeply loved all of his children and we had many special times with them whether doing homework, going to Great America, watching old episodes of SNL (the cow bell skit was one of his favorites!), indulging in culinary delights, going for hikes, riding bikes (always lots of shouting involved!), attending skating events, and playing soccer in the park, to name a few. Even in his final months, nothing brought him more joy than seeing his children and, to the degree possible, keeping involved in their lives. I know I'm in good company when I say, "To all who loved Don and felt touched by his presence in their lives, we have been fortunate to have known him and call him a friend." Beth Wilson

August 24 at 9:57 AM

CA

Carol Angelico posted:

Our memories of Don started just a few years ago when we met him and Holly over Tuesday oysters at SAMs. After just a few encounters we knew we were kindred spirits Don had such a gentle presence but a sharp humor that brought laughter to all. He was such a humble person that never boasted of his accomplishments so we were amazed to discover his great musical talents and his genius intellect We were blessed to spend many evenings and even an overnight with him and Holly. A memorable moment was when Don shared his feelings on enjoying a friendship "just because you genuinely like someone". The greatest honor came at the end of his courageous battle against cancer when he asked me to be his home nurse and be there for Holly and his family as his time with us came to a close. Phil has the honor of being one of the pall bearers. True to himself Don rallied to acknowledge each visitor as they paid their respects and goodbyes. He was a true warrior to the end. Don you will be so missed. With Loving Memories. Carol and Phil Angelico

August 24 at 8:35 AM

AM

Anu Moudgal posted:

Don & I were coworkers @ Apple, worked closely between 2008-2013. Being in management on the same team, both Don and I interacted frequently. When I think of him, I remember his smile, helpful nature, collaborative style, pragmatic and non-political attitude....all of which made for a very pleasant exchange always. Miss him dearly, pray that his loved ones be given the strength to bear this irreplaceable loss! – Anu Moudgal

August 23 at 5:36 PM



Tribute Wall

Donald Ramsey

MAR 20, 1966 - AUG 16, 2016



Rena Crockett Janke posted:

I had the good fortune of being Donnie's first cousin, but in reality, he was more like a little brother to me and my brother, Mike. I was 14 when Donnie was born, and he visited our home often with his Mom and Dad, and as a consequence, he was a "big toy" for me. He was a good natured toddler who allowed me to have fun with him and do silly things. I have photos of him as a two-year old with an old purse hanging from his arm and strands of plastic beads draped around his neck. He was smart, smart, smart and learned to read as soon as he learned to talk. Sometimes he could be really annoying as Mike and I were playing games with other cousins, and Donnie would be reading the rules in the game's box lid and correcting us whenever we were making up the rules as we went along. He was a stickler for the rules. My Daddy, Venis Crockett, loved to joke with Donnie. Whenever he visited on a weekend, we would have chips and dip and call it a "party." Daddy would tease Donnie by taking big globs of dip on his chip. Donnie would get so flustered when Daddy seemed to be taking more than his share of dip. When he was about 10, I had occasion to make a trip to Florida with Donnie and his Mom and Dad. We were traveling in my old Plymouth that didn't have air conditioning. It was so blazing hot, but Donnie would manage to sneak Kermit the Frog (his beloved stuffed animal) onto some part of my body and only add to the misery of heat and humidity. I would complain, and he would enjoy a good laugh at my expense. He was a fun-loving child who grew into a fun-loving adult. He was brilliant, but humble. As adults, we were separated by geography and not a part of each other's daily life, but we shared periodic communications on Facebook, mostly comical exchanges about inconsequential things or shared memories of good times in the hills of East Tennessee. I learned long ago that "life ain't fair", and Donnie's death demonstrates that fact to me once again. I will miss him and will recall fondly the little boy with spindly legs chasing the Beagle puppy he named Spot. Rena

August 23 at 1:13 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit



FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY