



Donald Charles Camillo

March 19, 1958 - September 11, 2022

Donald Charles Camillo, 64, formerly of Collinsville, IL passed away in Troy, MI on Sunday, September 11, 2022.

A visitation will be held on Monday, September 19 from 3:00-8:00 pm at Wasik Funeral Home (49150 Schoenherr Rd, Shelby Township, MI 48315). A funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at 10:00 am at St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church (48115 Schoenherr Rd, Shelby Township, MI 48315). Military funeral honors and burial will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery at 2:00 pm (4200 Belford Rd, Holly, MI 48442).

Don was born March 19, 1958, in St. Louis, MO, the third child of Oliver and Maria Camillo. He married Marie Van Hamme on July 2, 2016 in Detroit, MI. Don is survived by his wife Marie Camillo, daughter Sherree Daugherty (Frank), stepsons Richard Helmer (Tara) and Ryan Helmer, step-grandson Weston, siblings Karen Bosen, Tony Camillo (Debbie), Joseph Camillo, David Camillo (Alison), Karla Miller, and Charles Camillo (Jennifer), aunts and uncle Thelma Johannes, Emma Payne, Reina Spillari, Fernando Figueroa, and Sharon Warden, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents Oliver and Maria Camillo, godparents Don and Dottie Piva, and brother-in-law Rodney Miller.

Don was a fun-loving prankster who relished good jokes and never refused an

audience. He was legendary for his quick laugh and detailed stories of growing up in a family with four brothers and two sisters. Don played football in high school and college and was fond of his Volkswagen Beetle and Opel GT. Don proudly served as an intelligence analyst in the United States Army, including three years of service in Berlin, Germany, and was fluent in Russian.

“Mongo” as he was known to family and friends, was an electrical engineer by trade, yet could fix or build anything, often troubleshooting by reverse engineering. At General Dynamics he worked on communications systems for tanks, often considered the go-to guy for hard to diagnose repairs. He had a photographic memory and most everyone considered him a genius. He enjoyed collecting and shooting guns and hunting. He was a Dover Boy fisherman and dearly loved all his dogs, especially his beloved Teddy.

Don was known for his heart-felt encouragement and outrageous stories. Most will remember him as a great husband to his dear wife Marie, and as a proud and adoring father to his most precious daughter, Sherree. All will agree that his kind and generous heart will be greatly missed.

If you are so moved, donations may be made in Don’s honor to DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust or Diabetes Research Institute Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **19**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Instate in church

SEP **20**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
48115 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Funeral Mass

SEP **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church
48115 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Tribute Wall



“ *Donnie was a one of a kind guy-strong, kind, benevolent, wise, and most of all FUNNY!! His smile lit up the room and his observations and outlook on so many things made us all a little bit better people.He stood up for me at Webster Jr. Highschool when a bunch of bullies attacked me in the hallway one day, and his few 'choice' words ensured they never picked on me again.He and my dad became quite close as they both liked to dig in the dirt and pick through junk--both in projects on Turf Ct. in Webster Groves, and on Vandalia Street in Collinsville, as the Camillo clan moved from Bonne Terre. It certainly was a huge loss to our family, and to all those who knew him, worked with him, and shared some of their lives with him. He will always be dearly loved and fondly remembered!*

Kent Walker - January 08, 2025 at 03:11 PM

AC

“ *Sending love to Sherree and Marie. Wish we could have been there in person to share our condolences. Know that he, Marie and Sherree have been on our minds and in our hearts. We will make a donation to DAV in his honor.*
With love,
Ashley (aka Smashley) and Will

Ashley Camillo - September 20, 2022 at 04:42 PM

SK

“ *I worked with Don at GDLS. He was smart, friendly, and always helpful. He was a wealth of knowledge. I enjoyed hanging out with him outside of work, too. He was so proud of his daughter and always bragged about her. He could tell a story like no other. He will be missed.*

Sarah Keegan - September 20, 2022 at 08:25 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.*



September 19, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Don was the most friendliest person I know. From the day Don started dating Marie we hit it off. To many jokes and to many memories to list. Don loved his guns and he loved telling stories about the guns he has. These stories will always stay in my mind and my heart. Don will be missed by all but never forgotten . Don my friend I will miss you and your stories. RIP see you later.*

Randy Jackson - September 18, 2022 at 07:51 PM



“ *My cousin Donnie, as I called him from a very young age....always made me laugh! We were a year apart and always hung out together at family events. His smile, jokes, and personality were infectious. He was very loving to our family, including my mom, his Aunt Ann. I always remember her hiring Donnie one summer to remove an invasive plant in our yard. I can't begin to describe the calamity of errors as he wrestled with 15 foot vines & his determination which was unstoppable. That ended up making all of us double over with laughter as he made exaggerated chops with a huge machete and struggled with this crazy plant! He was one of a kind. I will miss him greatly!*

Diana Walker - September 18, 2022 at 03:16 PM

JC

“ Uncle Don was sincere and generous. I remember as a kid, he taught me the best way to eat popcorn is to grab a handful and shove it into your mouth all at once. I will also always remember his patience and kindness towards Ellie and Madison, including his constant participation in their fundraising events. I will miss his stories most of all.

Justin Camillo - September 18, 2022 at 02:49 PM

KC

“ Uncle Don was always so sweet and kind to everyone. My fondest memory was when I married his nephew Justin he came up to the head table and handed me his “own personal wedding gift” which was a small wooden baseball bat that he said was to be used to “hit Jay with when he got out of line.” The bat had Detroit Tigers logo on it which made it even funnier because living near St Louis he knew we were Cardinals fans. That’s just how he was though. Funny, caring and always there for family. He was truly be missed.

Katelynn Camillo - September 18, 2022 at 01:30 PM

KM

“ Don was my brother. I remember the night before he left for basic training he took me forever a drive in his Opal GT and bought in banana splits. I felt so special because it was just the two of us. He was always good to me and to my boys. Would always send loving texts on my birthday, and once built me a radio. ❤️❤️ Don would end his texts with: 😎☐

karla miller - September 17, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.*



September 17, 2022 at 02:52 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.*



September 17, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ *I was fortunate to have worked with Don at GD and got to know him outside of work as well. He always had the best stories and I learned a lot from him professionally. He loved his daughter and always talked about her. I was fortunate enough to be able to call him a friend and I was glad to have known him. He was one of a kind! My sincere condolences go out this family at this difficult time.*

Stephanie Nowak - September 15, 2022 at 12:13 PM



“ *I worked with Don at General Dynamics. He was always willing to answer any questions and would go out of his way to help you with anything. Smart guy and well respected by his fellow co-workers and customer. The world needs more men like Don. Just a great down to earth guy...til we meet again, Don. God bless his family at this very hard time💔*

Vicky Yarbrough - September 15, 2022 at 07:32 AM

A“

“ Uncle Mongo always thought of others. Especially his family. He'd go out of his way to help or support any member of our huge family. If you were going through a tough time, he'd call and listen. If you had happy news or a celebration, he'd make the trip to share it with you. On any given normal day, he'd have an interesting story, a joke and a genuine smile. No matter what he was dealing with or how he was feeling he always had time to be a kind and caring person to others. Thanks for being my Uncle. I love you

Amanda Lynn (A Mandolin) “Banjo” - September 14, 2022 at 08:41 PM

DC

“ Donnie was one of the kindest, most loving and genuine people I have ever known. He was always there for the people he loved and there was nothing he wouldn't do for them. I love you for the brother you were to me and I will miss you dearly.

Debbie Camillo - September 14, 2022 at 08:30 PM

TC

“ In High School Don escorted my girlfriend as the Christmas Queen , now she's my wife and Don has always stood by her in times of need. I can never forget your kindness Brother, Love you forever

Tony Camillo - September 14, 2022 at 08:18 PM

ME

“ I'm a good friend of his wife. When my husband and Gary first met him he was a very good conversation. My husband and Don shared many interests in guns. A great man and wish we had more time with him. You'll be missed. Ox Gary and Marcie

Marchella endres - September 14, 2022 at 05:39 PM

MA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



marie - September 14, 2022 at 03:54 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.



September 14, 2022 at 01:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.



September 14, 2022 at 12:24 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.



September 14, 2022 at 07:39 AM

PS

“ Don was a new member of our family here. I enjoyed every conversation that we shared, and was thinking that we would have so many more. Don will be missed by all of us. Marie, thank you for bringing Don into our lives. Your trailer park and fellow golfers are all on stand by , waiting for your return.

patti stark - September 13, 2022 at 09:07 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Charles Camillo.



September 13, 2022 at 04:54 PM

TJ

“ My earliest memories of Donnie date back to the Carondelet days when the Camillos were living on Pennsylvania Avenue. I babysat the 4 oldest one summer when Mary wanted to work and I was a young teenager. Donnie loved it when I baked cookies but he didn't like it when I wouldn't let the kids back in the house after I had cleaned up and straightened up the living room so that Mary and Ollie could see that I had done some housework. Five minutes after Mary and Ollie were home and the kids were back in the house no one could tell what I had done. But everyone was happy!

Thelma Y Johannes - September 13, 2022 at 04:41 PM

DP

“ One of my many memories I have of Don was the night before my wedding. Don sat and shared stories with my grandsons about his military career. He spoke perfect Russian to them. They loved it. (And still remember it today)
He will be sadly missed by everyone who got to know him. 🥹

Debra Peshnak - September 13, 2022 at 03:47 PM