



Donald Bartos

July 21, 1948 - January 2, 2016

DONALD M. BARTOS Age 67 Beloved husband of P.J. Dearest father of Jeff (Brenda), Melanie (Joe) Siwak, Diana, and Donald. Cherished brother of Rose Marie Nagy. Loving Papa Don of Amber, Ashley, Audrey, Jenna, Alaina, Marty, Faith, JoJo, Benny, Noah, and Great Grandpapa to Nathan. Went to be with the Lord on January 2, 2016 after the only race he could not finish — a courageous battle with cancer. He is currently on his next adventure and reunited with his loving parents Martin and Theresa Rose and a host of friends and family.

Don was a lover of all things mechanical since the age of three. He was a successful race engine builder from winning stock cars at Mt. Clemens Speedway to two-time winner of Indianapolis 500 (1974 & 1976). He retired as a senior engineer of Chrysler Jeep-Truck Product Development, but never retired from hard work, helping others, and fixing or creating something for his family and friends.

He was a certified snowboard instructor, avid golfer, and outdoor enthusiast. He created fun and adventure wherever he went and always made friends in the process.

Don had the mind of an inventor, heart of a child, and energy of a puppy. He was a lover of people, friend to so many, and the life of any party. He was a

man with a plan and a contagious sense of humor. He never slowed down and he brought us all along for a great ride.

In lieu of flowers family appreciates donations to be made in the honor of Donald to:

Michigan Adaptive Sports

4301 Orchard Lake Rd

Suite 180/B200

West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323

michiganadaptivesports.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 3:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights
3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Funeral Service

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

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3801 18 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
(586) 997-3838

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Bartos*

October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Donald Bartos*

January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM



“ *Looking up old friends and acquaintance, I was shocked to see an obituary for Donny. We ran together a bit when I worked for Stan Yee and Don built Stans race car engines. Always a smile on his face....my condolences to his family..... Tim Sproul.*

Timothy J Sproul - June 09, 2019 at 02:46 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about Don's death from cancer, Patty and family. We lost touch after the demise of Renault Racing, but I'll always remember our team's dynamic, happy-go-lucky (and handsome!) engine builder. It was far too soon, but I am amazed to read his obituary and realize how many people were privileged to have him as patriarch and friend, surrounding him with love and adventure all these many years. God bless you all, and may Don rest in peace.*

Brenda Ryan - April 30, 2016 at 01:03 PM

DM

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to all of Donald's family. My love, thoughts, and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Rest in peace cousin.

Love and Prayers, Dolores (Bartos) Mottle

DOLORES MOTTLE - January 09, 2016 at 11:36 AM

LL

“ This is such a loss for so many friends and former classmates of Don's from Grotto and St. Catherine's. He was such a happy and truly sincere and friendly guy. He leaves an indelible legacy of good cheer and kindness. So sorry we did not know of the illness or we would have reached out. Our thoughts and prayers are with all Don's family who will miss him so....his memory will live on forever.

Rich and Liz Poliuto Loria

Liz Loria - January 06, 2016 at 08:06 PM

JM

“ Sorry to hear this sad news about a great St. Catherine's classmate. I remember him playing on the winning Warriors team of '66 and see how active he stayed in sports. This note is sent with supporting thoughts and prayers to his family.

Sincerest sympathy,

Josetta (Malbouef) Mushaka

Josetta Mushaka - January 06, 2016 at 02:57 PM

LO

“ GODSPEED my life time FRIEND you were always known for your kindness and beautiful smile ever since you won the award at ST Catherine's for ((best smile ever)) 143 A & F. Linda Marasco OConnor

Linda Marasco OConnor - January 06, 2016 at 01:30 PM

EA

“ I am very sorry to learn of Don's passing. He was a lifelong friend to my brothers Rob and Tom, and to Joe Weiss, Phil Gant, Paul Rumph and others. I was the sister who sometimes hung around with the brother's gang of friends. He called when my brother Rob died suddenly in September. I was aware Don was in hospice at home, may family and friends have comfort knowing now his suffering has ended and he is at peace. He was a genuinely nice guy, always with a smile for you.

Elaine Arnold - January 06, 2016 at 10:53 AM

RB

“ Deepest sympathy to you all PJ. What a better place this world would be if there were more people like Donald in it. We will greatly miss him and have such great memories to hold on to.

*Our love, thoughts and prayers to you all from your PA cousins.
Mike and Ruth Bartos*

Ruth Bartos - January 05, 2016 at 11:06 PM

LH

“ Would like to send our condolences to PJ and family, Don was a great friend and person, especially to to Jeff O'Connor, hopefully they are together having a good laugh. Sincerely Linda Harris and Ashley O'Connor

Linda K Harris - January 05, 2016 at 05:04 PM

AD

“ I am very sorry to hear the sad news, I along with many of my colleagues, whom have already sent their condolences, I've worked with Don for many years at Renault Jeep Sport and in the AMC building, later; Jeep/Truck Engineering. I truly enjoyed interacting with Don; as everyone who worked with Don knew, he was a gifted and genuine individual. While we spent many time deeply engaged in Engineering work, he always had a smile and we enjoyed talking racing , his motor home and rebuilding of it, and our love of golf. I will always remember and cherish all the memories.
My prayers and condolences to you and the entire family. May God bless you and the family

.Adrian Donorio

Adrian Donorio - January 05, 2016 at 01:45 PM

JA

“ Don taught me to snowboard after several lessons with others. He had the patience, knowledge, and strength to deal with me. SO THANKFUL TO HAVE MET HIM!!

Jamie

Jamie - January 05, 2016 at 12:40 PM

PJ

“ Sweetie: Our favorite sayings: We never fought except when we did. We always agreed except when we didn't. Finding each other was like finding water in the desert and God ordained. Thank you for chasing me for the past 17 years. You are the love of my life, one of a kind and I will always love you! Keep the motor running I won't be long. See you soon.

PJ/Wife - January 05, 2016 at 12:28 PM

MS

“ *Much love, Joe & Celeste Stachura purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Donald Bartos.*



Much love, Joe & Celeste Stachura - January 05, 2016 at 12:04 PM

DW

“ *We are so very disheartened to learn of Don's passing. We both worked with him at Jeep/Truck Engineering and were able to catch up with him every December at the AMC Christmas Party. We learned this year at the party that he was not there because he had been sick. Prayers to Don's family and loved ones during this very difficult time.*
John & Dawn Waack

Dawn Waack - January 05, 2016 at 10:05 AM

GC

“ *January 5 from 3-8:30 Don was the most giving friend anyone could ever have. Always upbeat and zest for life I have ever seen. When Don was with you knew you were going to have a good day. We all better for have knowing Him.*

Gary De Carolis - January 05, 2016 at 09:53 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Bartos.*



January 04, 2016 at 10:34 PM

IS

“ We would spend many a minute, (which sometimes stretched into an hour or more), somewhere within the confines of JTE reminiscing about racing. Don was just as fascinated in European racing, as I was in his exploits in US racing and building those Offenhausers's at McLaren for Indy. We would amble along the West side Dock at JTE kidding each other, with his sense of humor in full display and those white pearly teeth flashing in that larger than life wide smile of his. I will miss you Don, and have a picture in my minds eye of our sunny walks along the dock ! Safe journey until we meet again.

Ian Sharp - January 04, 2016 at 09:55 PM

BC

“ Always a smile, a cheery demeanor, and a positive attitude. Don will be missed by all that knew him.
Sincere condolences to Don's family and his many friends for their loss.
Bert Carty

Bert Carty - January 04, 2016 at 03:59 PM

DB

“ Don and I were friends at JTE for many years. I believe we both left the company at the same time when JTE was closing the doors. We kept in touch with monthly coffee meetings when he lived in Plymouth and we golfed 1x or 2x a year to have a few laughs. He lost more golf balls than me but never lost that smile and sense of humor. He will be missed by me for sure for he always had an answer for me when I had a question on fixing something on my car or tractor.

I, myself, have had two (2) types of cancer and I guess the 'big man' upstairs thinks my job has not been completed. Not sure why the 'big man' decided this was the time for my friend Don, but he did allow him to share many years of friendship with me and I am thankful to have known him.

I never met PJ, but my prayers have been sent for him and her in this difficult time.

Dennis A. Biess

dennis a. biess - January 04, 2016 at 12:53 PM

BL

“ I had the great pleasure of meeting Don while working at Jeep Truck Engineering. Words don't cover his loss. I was so happy to see him take the trip last year with his daughter heading out west. Don was always so full of life. I'm so thankful that he was able to attend the Wednesday night Christmas dinner in Mt. Clemens. The reception he received from the group when he arrived speaks of how much Don will be missed.

Bob Longstreth - January 04, 2016 at 11:46 AM

SG

“ Shirley Gregg purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Bartos.



Shirley Gregg - January 04, 2016 at 11:26 AM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Bartos.



January 04, 2016 at 11:15 AM

KR

“ Our sincere Condolences to Don's family..... Rest in Paradise Don...
Love, Karen & Rick Ross

Karen Ross - January 04, 2016 at 10:33 AM

PT

“ I first met Don when I started working at Renault/Jeep Sport in 1985 on their engine programs. That year championships were won in both road racing (IMSA RS) and off-road racing (Score/HDRA). Don was a delight to know from then on, even though he tried to get me snowboarding. The train had already left the station for me to take up that activity. I envied him being able to be successful in racing, engineering and sports. We'll miss you, Don!

Philip Toney - January 04, 2016 at 10:30 AM

JD

“ I first met Don when he and I were T-Bird Ski instructors. We once shared a condo on a ski trip out west and he always brightened up the room when he entered. He was always smiling and enjoyed life to it's fullest. Dan and I went through chemo treatments for prostate cancer at the same time. It was comforting to know that many of the side affects we were experiencing were shared and we decided were normal. I last saw Don when he and PJ came over for the day to swim in our pool. They stayed for dinner and we later enjoyed shooting pool in the basement. Don always kept a positive attitude about life and his faith in the Lord made his journey acceptable. I will miss you my friend, may you rest in peace.

John Deckert - January 04, 2016 at 09:57 AM

DK

“ Don and I first met at Jeep Truck Engineering. We became closer after retirement at small group get togethers and attending the Detroit auto show. It was a pleasure to know Don. He was a good friend who will be remembered and missed. My deepest condolences to his family.
Don Killing

Don Killing - January 04, 2016 at 09:16 AM

GC

“ Lot's of FUN times skiing (boarding) up north and out west. Met Don driving back from Jackson Hole to Steamboat in 2001 - what great memories. The comment "heart of a child and energy of a puppy" describes him to a T!

Gari Chaffin - January 04, 2016 at 08:58 AM

AY

“ You all have our very deepest sympathy. Donald will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing him. His smile is infectious and would light up any room. Donald had a love for his family and a love of life in general. He was a true gentleman in every way. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. He raised a beautiful family, for which he was so very proud. May Donald rest in peace.

Love and God's Blessings,
Anna Jane and Andy Yuhaniak

Anna Jane Yuhaniak - January 04, 2016 at 08:02 AM

UR

“ Uncle Rudy purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donald Bartos.



Uncle Rudy - January 04, 2016 at 06:41 AM

CW

“ I have so many happy, fun memories with Don and Pam. The ones that first come to mind are the weekends at my brothers cottage up north with Pam and Don, the Martins and Joe and me. The fun times we had in the van going to trips to the wine country, boat rides at dusk and of course games around the kitchen table. Don, you will never be forgotten. You were one of a kind. You truly will be missed. Love, Cathy and Joe.

Cathy Willing - January 04, 2016 at 05:15 AM

SL

I was a close neighbor of Don's the years he resided in Canton, MI. I was blessed to spend some quality time with him this past July when we went to visit another fellow neighbor, Connie, who just lost his wife unexpectedly. Don, in the worst of times, still had that usual high level of energy/laughter along with his compassion and caring words for a close friend of ours who was suffering.

Don was one of the handiest guys I have ever known. I was proud to be on the HOA board with his great leadership serving as his VP. He truly had that sense of family easily brought about from his great Italian roots.

Being raised in Indianapolis as a local race fan, I was most impressed with Don who was on the winning pit crew in '76. A brilliant mechanic!

I was taken aback when I heard Don passed as I knew he was putting up a good fight still keeping that positive mindset and great sense of humor.

I will miss my good friend Don. I pray that PJ and all Don's children, especially Diana and Donald, will remain strong in this difficult loss.

I love you man!

Steve Lenahan

Stephen Lenahan - January 05, 2016 at 01:57 AM

SR

I too, am one of the many folks that met Don at Jeep / Truck. We worked on numerous projects together. He always made sure to stop by, chat & offer advice even if he was off working on something else. The smile, attitude & friendship others have mentioned is spot on. You will be missed by many, including me. Rest in Peace Brother Don.

Scott Reynolds - January 05, 2016 at 06:10 AM

KJ

Don, our very special cousin. There is so much to say and not enough room to put it all down. We will miss your smiles and humor that kept us all going during the bad times and the good. We know that you, Renee and Pam are giving the relatives a run for their money in heaven. We loved you and you will be at every party we have . Love John and Karen

karen and john - January 07, 2016 at 10:08 PM