



## Donald Dean Cushing

September 20, 1934 - January 8, 2021

Donald Dean Cushing of Pleasant Ridge, formerly of Decatur, IL, age 86, passed away on January 8, 2021. Beloved husband of Cheryl (Woods). Precious father of David (Pam) and Timothy (Alexandra). Cherished grandfather of Sean, Vincent and Julianna. Treasured brother of Rosalyn (Dave) Sandage of Decatur, IL. Dearest friend of sister-in-law & brother-in-law Karen (Wright) & Frank Noonan of Chicago, IL. Warm-hearted friend to Cheryl's children and grandchildren. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his loving wife of 49 years Ann (Wright), his son Joseph and his parents, Joseph Dean and Elizabeth (Sommer).

Donald and younger sister Rosalyn, were only a year apart in age and spent so many happy hours playing together. Donald actually refused to go to kindergarten because his dear sister could not go to school too. In 5th grade his dad put up a basketball hoop on the garage. Donald was not too happy with Rosalyn because she was better at free throws. They both took piano lessons and did Turkey in the Straw at their duet recital. It got a bit dicey when Rosalyn had to go reach over to Donald's side when they played their duets. They couldn't argue...mom said "No Arguing". When Donald started high school he "sort of" left little sis' behind. Time to hang out with the "guys". It took until Donald's senior year for him to hit his growth spurt. Up until that time Rosalyn was taller than him. He finally got to be 6 ft. 2 in. Rosalyn forgave Donald for leaving her behind in 8th grade and they were the best of friends

all these years.

He spent several summers staying and working on his grandparent's farm in Oconee, Illinois. It was fun because older cousins were there too. He didn't get in trouble when he drove the truck into a ditch, even though he was only 11 years old. Donald went to St. James and St. Teresa grade and high school. He was honored by the city for work activities helping in a school program for the local hospital. In 7th grade Donald got quite the honor, The DAR award for his paper on history, which was one of his life long favorites.

Donald met the lovely Ann Wright in September 1953. She was still in high school. They dated for two years. Donald then went into the Army. On coming home, he went to Millikin University, in Decatur, and graduated in 3 years with an engineering degree. He was also the president of his fraternity, SAE.

Donald and Ann married in 1959 and moved to Michigan for a job. He worked for 35 years with the Gardner Denver Co. He sold large machinery for businesses. Ann was a teacher. They had three children, David, Joe and Tim. When David was a baby they moved to Pleasant Ridge, Michigan. Then along came Joe and then Tim. They lived lived in PR for 49 years. He was a good husband and good father. Donald was very involved with his children and all their activities. Donald and Ann got involved with the Elder Hostel group and did quite of bit of traveling. They bought a cottage up in Empire, Michigan, home of the Sleeping Bear Dunes, where they spent great vacations. Ann's baby sister, Karen (she was 13 years younger) and husband Frank and their 5 children, were part of the vacation gang. Such happy memories.

Ann passed away 14 years ago. About 9 months later, Donald reunited with Cheryl Woods. The Cushing family knew the Woods family from the PR neighborhood. After dating for 7 years, they married 3 years ago. Having another loving union. They enjoyed traveling, tennis and music.

Donald LOVED music. All kinds of music: Classical, Broadway, Andre Reiu, Irish, Old Country Western, Big Band, even Rock, Blue Grass, especially banjo playing. He would make CD's and flash drives. He would even make music for Cheryl and his sister Rosalyn. His old Chrysler 300, came with a MP3 player and they would listen to music all the way to Florida. He totally loved that Chrysler, and did not want to get a new car. Finally, he did sell it to his son David. Donald would get a big smile on his face when David came to visit and drove it down from Paw Paw.

Cheryl bought Donald a banjo for his birthday one year. He spent a week fooling around with it. She also paid for lessons. Lessons he never used. He said it was too difficult, but he still loved the banjo.

Donald really got into Genealogy these past 15 years. He and son David spent many long hours "finding their roots". They even went to Europe to search out the family tree.

Donald was a beautiful, gentle soul, exception.... when you talked politics, he was very passionate! He was loved by all his children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. All Cheryl's children and grandchildren loved him and he them. I want to name all these dear loved ones:

Donald's sister Rosalyn (Dave Sandage), daughter Lisa (Ravishan Uraimov), their son Daniel. Son Andy (Kristen), their two sons Colton and Tyler.

Ann's baby sister Karen (Wright) (Frank Noonan), daughter Katie (Noonan) (Dr. William Murphy), their children Collin, Owen and Eila. Karen's son Daniel Noonan. Son Brian Noonan (Sally), their children Francis and Sean. Daughter Sara (Noonan) (Lew Babinski), their children George, Henry and Lottie.

Daughter Molly (Noonan) (Matt Jensen), their sons James and Jack.

Cheryl's children: Charles J. Woods Jr., his children Sean (Marissa) and Tina. Cheryl's daughter Catherine. Son Michael (Betty), their children Zachary and Bianca. Son Timothy (Heather), their two children Sidney and Miranda.

Donald will be missed greatly by Cheryl, and Donald's sons, family and friends. The earth will a bit darker and the stars will be shining brighter. Donald will be cremated and remains taken, later this summer, to his beloved Empire. A military burial will take place and remains will be placed with Ann and son Joe.

Visitation Friday, January 22nd from 5-8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. Scripture Service at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, MI. Service Saturday, January 23rd, in state 9:30 a.m. until Mass at 10 a.m., at St. Mary Catholic Church, Royal Oak. Service will be livestreamed at <https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/obituaries/Donald-Cushing/#!/PhotosVideos>. Please note that if the streaming connection is not stable, a recording of the full service should be available at the same link later that same day.

Memorials suggested to Knights of Columbus, Bishop Gallagher Council No. 2569, [www.kofc2569.com](http://www.kofc2569.com). Please share at memory at [www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **22**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Scripture Service

JAN **22**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Mass

JAN **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
730 S. Lafayette Avenue  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Donald Dean Cushing*



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - January 22, 2021 at 07:56 PM

PD

“ *The Cushings have lived down the street for almost 60 years. Don was so much fun at the park when we were kids. Many years later I saw Don with his grandchildren at the same park playing with them. What a deja vu as Don ran around the jungle gym stirring things up. It took me back. Don was so sweet and kind and gentle and will be sorely missed. Best regards to his family. I love you Don.*



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**Patty Duhn** - January 22, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Dean Cushing.*



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January 20, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donald Dean Cushing.*



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January 19, 2021 at 11:49 PM



“ *I met Don and Ann when my sister, Alex married their youngest son, Tim. They both loved Alex so much! From that union, Don and Ann had 3 beautiful grandchildren, Sean, Vincent and Julianna that they loved and adored! All our trips to MI, Don and Ann would always extend their Empire home to us and we have beautiful memories because of their kindness and hospitality. After Ann passed away, Don joined Tim, Alex and the kids on a vacation to visit us in Arizona. He had so much fun with Sean, Vincent and Julianna and we truly enjoyed his visit as did he! Don was a gentle and loving soul and he would never omit his loving daughter in law and grandchildren from his life as this obituary has done. We'll all miss you, Don! Love, Liz and family!*

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**Liz Perracchio** - January 18, 2021 at 02:11 PM