



Donald L. Rowan, Sr.

January 9, 1951 - June 3, 2020

Donald Lyle Rowan, a Christian, a husband, a father, and a musician, passed away peacefully on June 3 at the age of 69. Donald is survived and loved by his soul mate and wife of 51 years, Karen, and his children Kristin, Donald Jr., and Daniel and sister, Sharon. Donald was born on January 9, 1951 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, to Lyle and Mae Rowan. As a child, Donald was a "Mother Nature's Son" who loved to be outdoors and could usually be found climbing and sitting in a tree somewhere. Around the age of 9, he was introduced to the guitar for the first time, which began a lifetime love of the instrument. He carried that love with him throughout his entire life, playing in bands, teaching students, and eventually teaching his adult children to play. Donald loved to play guitar with his family, including his wife Karen who played mandolin and his children on guitar; they'd frequently get together for what fondly became known as "FamJam." He was employed at FCA Fiat Chrysler for 47 years as a Die Maker, Die Designer, and Die Standards Engineer. He traveled extensively with his team throughout Europe and Asia, looking for alternative metal compounds that would make cars lighter and stronger. He also served as a Die Design Apprentice Rep for over 10 years. He retired in 2017 and went back to enjoying his family, love of his guitars and his computer. As a result of all of his hard work and dedication to teaching his children, they will always "think guitar." Funeral service will be held on Monday, June 8 at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks East of Van Dyke) Utica. Visitation will be from 10 am to 12 noon with

a service following at 12. The service will be streamed live beginning a few minutes before 12. The family would appreciate and enjoy any memory messages.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 8. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Donald L. Rowan, Sr.*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - June 08, 2020 at 11:04 AM

AW

“ *Don was one of the nicest, and most talented people I've ever met. Rest in peace, my old boyhood friend.*

allen wentz - June 09, 2020 at 04:36 PM

JC

“ *I met Don quite a few times professionally over my 25+ years working with Chrysler as one our our oldest and most loyal customers. Whether it was around Detroit, or at a trade show in Germany or Nashville, it was always nice to spend time with him for his interest in our mutual projects or just having a good laugh with his team. He was a memorable and eloquent character. Rest in Peace Don, and peace to all your family and friends.*

Jonathan Cotter, Dearborn

Jonathan Cotter - June 08, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Dons passing. I had a chance to work with Don for 5 years at FCA in the Die Engineering Group. He was a great mentor to me, teaching me many things, both technically and how to best lead and handle difficult challenges we faced. Don and I are both musicians and had a love of music. A fond memory for me was during out of town business trips, Don and I would always hunt for the local music store to go to after work and look at all the new gear and have a great jam session, he on guitar and me on bass. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dons family and friends. Don was a fantastic human on all fronts and will be missed.

John McGuire - June 08, 2020 at 12:24 PM

KR

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Don's passing. My deepest sympathy to the Rowan family. I worked with Don at Chrysler, from tool & die to engineering. Always a good, dedicated worker & friend, who made it a point to have a good day.

So many good memories, but one in particular makes me laugh. One day at CTC (Chrysler Headquarters), we were 3-4 hours into our 10 hour shift when we took a break. As we sat there sipping coffee, Don realized he had worn one brown shoe and one black shoe to work. Big laff for us. Rest in Paradise my friend.



Kip Reaves - June 08, 2020 at 12:13 PM

Terry Komondy

“ Don was a wonderful, sweet person. I have known him and his family for many years, from back when they were teenagers, playing with the CADDs. I send my deepest condolences to to the family and will continue to keep you in my prayers. 💕💕 Terry Komondy

Terry Komondy - June 08, 2020 at 11:27 AM

JM

“ I am so sorry to here of Don’s passing. I would be at the service but am in NY and will not return until this evening. Don was a friend, a work companion, a travel partner and very stern and compassionate person. Don, Dave Truetle, and myself traveled the world to such places as Germany, Sweden, Italy, Austria, England, China, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. Don was always a great to be with. He taught me many things about our trade and life. He was a very strong Lutheran. In fact, he is the reason I became a Lutheran myself. He pointed out many things about his faith during our travels in Germany. Such as the castle church in Wittenberg Germany where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door. One real memory with Don was when he, Dave Truetle and myself were in Venice Italy between assignments. Don and I had room next to each other. I called Don on the phone to see what he though about doing for dinner. While we were talking, Don said to hang up the phone. Once done, I could hear Don say, “How do I sound now? “, it was easier to talk thru the thin walls then on the staticky phone lines. We laughed all thru dinner. I will forever miss my dear friend and work/travel companion until I see him again on my final travel. My thoughts to all Don’s family and friends who I know will greatly miss him. God bless and hold you tight dear brother.

Jim Malkiewicz - June 08, 2020 at 10:09 AM

LT

“ I was friends with Kris for most of my school years and we attended the same church. I remember Mr Rowan as a jolly man who was like a dad to anyone that walked in whether they were their child or not. He was a God Fearing man who loved his family. Heaven gained a wonderful member with Mr Rowan.

Lara Trottier - June 08, 2020 at 09:46 AM

DL

“ I grew up on WestPoint in Sterling Heights down the street from the Rowan family, where I began a lifelong friendship with Mr. Rowan’s son, Don. The first time I came home from playing at Don’s house, my mother asked me if I met Don’s parents. I was 8 years old and I told her “Yes, I met Don’s dad - he was working in the garage.” She asked me “What was he like?” I recall responding – “He is a big man and his garage is super organized.”

Honestly, Mr. Rowan was the biggest man I ever met – I’m 45 years old now and he is still a big man to me. His cheerful low tone hellos were alarming - but comforting at the same time, his presence always commanding yet sincere and calm.

Growing up down the street from the Rowan family, I learned that music was a language they all spoke – everyone was a musician. Eventually I learned more about Mr. Rowan’s talents as a guitarist – and I realized why and how the language of music was such a beautiful building block in their family. Mr. Rowan was a big man, with a big heart and big talent – his memory, music and presence will not soon be forgotten.

Dan Lougheed - June 08, 2020 at 01:29 AM

ND

“ Nancy Diebel lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Rowan, Sr.



Nancy Diebel - June 07, 2020 at 09:55 PM

ND

“ I have so many fond memories of my Uncle Don. He was generous, thoughtful, and always very successful in all of his ventures. Uncle Don also had a great sense of humor and could make you laugh!

He was such a talented guitarist. He could and would play any song you requested and play it perfectly. It was truly a pleasure to listen to his music.

Uncle Don was also a talented photographer. He took the most beautiful pictures of his travels around the world and always shared them with all of us. I absolutely treasure the beautiful pictures he took of my wedding along with the video he created. His photographs made these memories permanent, so they will never be forgotten.

He was also the most organized person I have ever known. He impeccably organized everything, even his garage. I remember sitting in his garage with him and my mom listening to Alison Krauss. He got up from his lawn chair and lowered a burlap sack on a pulley from his garage ceiling. It was full of bird seed that he wanted to give me to feed the birds in my yard. Silly as it may be, I thought it was one of the coolest things I had seen.

Thank you Uncle Don for all of the wonderful memories and for being my Uncle. You will be forever in my heart.

Nancy Diebel - June 07, 2020 at 09:54 PM

SH

“ I have so many.....from the bands he played in while in high school, to our kids trick-or-treating at Halloween, to family parties/events, the family camping trips to Burt Lake. Watching the inept campers next to our site break camp during one trip, that left us laughing so hard we cried.....No one loved a good time or a good laugh more than Don, his infectious laugh ringing in our ears.....his attention to detail drove his need for excellence, which showed in everything he did, from his job to favorite pastimes like his guitars and music.....a larger-than-life personality, he will be missed, but will still remain a part in all our lives.....till we meet again Don.....

Sue Hall - June 07, 2020 at 07:54 PM

MK

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Don can always remember he was the life of the party will surely be missed by many John loved to hear him play his music thete probably playing together right now .What a very loving and caring man.Im praying for the family nothing is easy but he is in great hands my love to all.

Mary Ketchum - June 07, 2020 at 07:43 PM