



Mr Donald Joseph Kempel

December 2, 1958 - May 20, 2024

Mr. Donald Joseph Kempel

Donald Joseph Kempel of Queenstown, Maryland, passed away on May 20, 2024, at University of Maryland Shock Trauma from a sudden brain injury. He was surrounded by his mother and siblings.

Donald was born on December 2, 1958, at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, MD. He was the oldest son of F. Donald Kempel and Catherine "Cass" Kempel. He spent his childhood in Brooklyn, Maryland with his family and cousins, attending St. Rose of Lima school and parish where he served as an altar boy. He graduated from Southern High School in Baltimore, class of 1977, where he took woodworking and was a member of the wrestling team.

Don was a professional house painter and delivery driver, but his first job was at Cedar Hill Florist, which began a lifelong love of plants and flowers. He was a gifted gardener and had a green thumb. In addition to horticulture, Don enjoyed woodworking, hiking with the Mountain Club of Maryland, visiting local farmer's markets, and taking scenic drives to various places of interest, including historical sites, churches, and looking at Christmas decorations. Don liked beauty in art and nature and photographing it. He liked to keep abreast of current events in politics, sports, and the environment. He enrolled in classes to broaden his knowledge in these areas. He loved to read and had a vast collection of books on many subjects. Don was kind with a good heart, especially for those less fortunate, often making sure that stray animals that

came to his door were fed. Although his resources were limited, he donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and sponsored a child in Guatemala. Don liked to buy his family thoughtful, unique gifts and beautiful cards. Don overcame many personal challenges in his life, but he persevered through them, including triple bypass surgery, which he faced with courage and motivation to return quickly to his former activities, including walking several miles a day. Donald Joseph is survived by his mother, Catherine Kempel, and his three siblings, M. Beth Remesch (Ray), Matthew J. Kempel (Kim), and Jill Marie King (Kenny), 18 nieces and nephews, 19 great nieces and nephews and his aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased in death by his father, Francis Donald Kempel in 2021. Don will be greatly missed by his family who loved him unconditionally. A visitation will be held at St. Benedict Church, Ridgely, Maryland at 10:00 am. A mass of Christian burial will follow at 11:00 am. Interment will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Cordova, Maryland. All are invited back to St. Benedict Family Life Center for a reception to celebrate Don's life.

Cemetery Details

Old St. Joseph's Cemetery

Cordova, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Benedict's Catholic Church
408 Central Avenue
Ridgely, MD 21660

Mass

MAY 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Benedict's Catholic Church
408 Central Avenue
Ridgely, MD 21660

Tribute Wall

JC

“ My warmest thoughts to Don's family for their loss. Don and I had been friends for more than 15 years. We met when I hired him to paint many houses I had. I always found him kind, trustworthy and did fine work. Don went through his personal struggles and I feel happy to know friends of mine helped him stop drinking. I moved out of state and Don and I stayed in touch by phone and text. He never lost his Catholic faith and many times when he was going thru difficult times we would pray. I am also Catholic so shared some deep prayer time with Don over the years. I will miss our political talks as Don always had strong interests in the political world. I hope his family will know he loved them. He is with the Lord now and in peace. With Gods Love to you all. RIP Don... Your Friend , Joyce Costello

Joyce Costello - June 17, 2024 at 03:24 PM

LP

“ Sincere condolences to all the family.



Lisa & Bruce Plummer - May 31, 2024 at 05:49 PM

MI

“ Megan I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr Donald Joseph Kempel.

Megan I. - May 28, 2024 at 10:22 PM

AW

“ Agnes Wilhelm lit a candle in memory of Mr Donald Joseph Kempel



Agnes Wilhelm - May 28, 2024 at 09:34 PM

JC

“ Don, you created a lasting memory for the Conley family after aunt Marge's viewing. The time you spent with us, we will never forget. God bless you.

Jack Conley - May 28, 2024 at 03:33 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr Donald Joseph Kempel.



May 28, 2024 at 12:35 PM

KK

“ Kimberly K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr Donald Joseph Kempel.

Kimberly K. - May 28, 2024 at 11:52 AM

KK

“ Kimberly K. purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mr Donald Joseph Kempel.



Kimberly K. - May 28, 2024 at 11:52 AM

LL

“ While I did not know Don personally, I have loved my friend Jill and her family since high school. Much love to the Kempel family today and always. ❤️



lisa lister - May 28, 2024 at 12:01 AM

PC

“ Pam C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr Donald Joseph Kempel.

Pam C. - May 27, 2024 at 04:33 PM

YM

“ Donnie I will miss those conversations we would have at family gatherings. Rest in peace. Yvonne



Yvonne McGahagan - May 26, 2024 at 10:35 PM