



Donald J Ruddy

March 19, 1948 - August 20, 2023

Donald Joseph Ruddy was born in 1948 in Brick, NJ. His formative years were spent in the halls of St. Mary's Academy in Lakewood, NJ, and Mother of the Savior (Salvatorian) Seminary in Blackwood, NJ. Then, as a young man, Donn departed the seminary and ardently followed his dream of acting. He refined his talents at Ocean County Community College and Rutgers University, and captivated audiences in repertory theaters and other stages nationwide for 15 vibrant years. Together with his wife Charlotte and two daughters, he ventured to distant corners of the country, embracing new horizons and forming lifelong bonds.

In the mid-1980s, Donn settled in Vernon, NJ, and in a reflection of his many talents and interests, transitioned careers, embracing roles in golf course groundskeeping and then real estate. Retirement beckoned in the early 2000s, and he and Charlotte split their time between Barnegat, NJ, and Sunny Isles, FL, eventually remaining full-time in Sunny Isles. They savored retirement by sailing, hosting loved ones, visiting grandchildren, and traveling the world.

Donn was known for his love of the ocean, beautiful singing voice, and tasty

cosmos. He had a natural athleticism, making him great company on a ski mountain and a vicious opponent on the tennis court. In the midst of our grief, we find solace in the memories we shared with him, including family trips to Disney World and the islands, 4th of July parties, sunny days on La Dulce Vida, 3-for-1s at Porterhouse, long stories at the dinner table and on the terrace, and of course his famous Christmas pants.

Donn was pre-deceased by his father, William Donald Ruddy; his mother, Geraldine (Kindle) Ruddy; his sister, Gay; brother, Frederick (Ricky); and brother, Henry (Champ).

He leaves behind his wife, Charlotte, with whom he shared everything for over 53 years; his daughter, Lara Ruddy Schlichting, son-in-law, Don, and granddaughter, Holly; his daughter, Alisha Ruddy Pollastri, son-in-law, Mike, and grandchildren, Xavier and Norah. He also leaves in mourning his sisters, Barbara (Ruddy) Donald of Vernon, NJ and Kathleen (Ruddy) Mainiero of Ormond Beach, FL. Donn loved his many cousins like his own siblings and adored his nieces and nephews like they were his own children. His close friends are a beloved part of the family. All those who were fortunate to know him will miss his warm smile and his presence in their lives. Though sorrow hangs heavy, let us remember Donn for his capacity to chase dreams relentlessly, love unconditionally, and live expansively.

In honor of Donn's vibrant life, we invite all those who knew and cherished him to join his friends and family for a funeral Mass and memorial luncheon, beginning at 11am on September 16, 2023 at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Sunny Isles Beach, FL.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that you consider a donation in Donn's name to the American Lung Association (action.lung.org), Alzheimers Association (alz.org), or Appalachia Service Project (asphome.org/give). These three causes were close to Donn's heart; your support would be a meaningful way to honor his memory and legacy of generosity.

Previous Events

Service

SEP **16.** 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
17775 N Bay Rd
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

Tribute Wall

MB

“*Uncle Donn was the life of the party, the fun-lovin', story-tellin' guy who could light up any room. He had a way of making you feel welcome, whether he was hosting a gathering, mixing up the best cosmos in the Miami area, or sharing a hearty laugh. He was in his element when good company was around. He was the consummate host.*

I have many fond memories of him during the early years. Playing touch football in our backyard in Pennsylvania. Driving into New York City when I was a young, aspiring actor. Strolling the boardwalk in Pt. Pleasant Beach. Spending long, easy evenings out on the deck in Vernon. He had a sharp memory, a good mind for trivia, and an even better sense of humor. If there was a good story to be told, you could bet he was at the center of it, probably slipping into a British accent, like his impression of Dave, the British national he met on a cruise.

Uncle Donn loved to be around family and friends. He was a big Duke basketball fan, especially during the Coach K years. He left too quickly and too early, but I take solace in thinking that he's up there somewhere telling stories to Grandma Rosie and Pop Pop Pete, and making sure heaven's stocked with good cocktails and laughter.

We miss you, Uncle Donn. Thanks for the memories, the laughter, and the love.

Michael Brown - March 04, 2025 at 09:29 AM

MB

Sorry, when "he" (not "I") was a young aspiring actor.^

Michael Brown - March 04, 2025 at 09:36 AM

CW

“ Dear Charlotte, Donn and I were classmates at Mother of the Saviour. He was a wonderful actor in plays there; indeed, he was a wonderful friend. The well written obituary tells his wonderful talent and nature continued. I will remember him, you and all the grandkids and family at my noon Mass today here in Western Australia. With fond memories and whole hearted prayers, Fr Charles

Chuck Waddell - September 17, 2023 at 09:12 PM

JB

“ I have many fond memories of Donn. The one I remember the most is the day he became my brother-in-law. Of course that was also the day of his wedding to Charlotte. At the ceremony Donn sang a love song to Charlotte which was a fitting tribute to their union and their unending love.

RIP Donn and keep'em laughing behind Heaven's Gates. Jim Brown

James Brown - September 09, 2023 at 09:40 AM

MM

“ Although I haven't seen my cousin, Donny, in years, I will always remember his infectious smile and fun loving ways. We always went to my Aunt Gerry's house for bbq's and the best coleslaw I have ever tasted and that is where I met his "girlfriend" Charlotte. They were a beautiful couple and I knew they would last a lifetime. I am saddened to hear of his passing but so happy to hear of his life and the joy that surrounded him. My condolences are with the family at this time. I know he is a bright shining star looking down on everyone!

Marie Celona Meaney - September 08, 2023 at 04:17 PM

DS

“ We both will miss you Donn. You brightened our days in Barnegat and Florida. We were blessed to have you in our lives. Rest in Peace our dear friend. Jim and Dar

Darlene M. Sheridan - August 31, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Donald J Ruddy.



August 31, 2023 at 02:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald J Ruddy.

August 31, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald J Ruddy.



August 31, 2023 at 11:37 AM

AL

“ Miss you, Dad. Love, Alisha



Alisha - August 30, 2023 at 09:58 AM