



## Donald A. Dolan

February 13, 1955 - July 29, 2022

Donald Dolan made his final theatrical gesture on July 29, 2022 with his family a captive audience, as ever, at his bedside. His passing was unexpected, coming after a brief illness and stay in St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, NY. Don was born to the late Donald and Jessie Dolan (Pichna) on February 13, 1955 in Hudson, NY. The youngest child born to three fawning older sisters, all this attention during his formative years surely contributed to what would become a life of entertaining and theatrics. As a boy he was known to play for hours with his army men under a cherry tree in his backyard on Robinson Street, with his elaborate sound effects heard all the way down the block. He befriended animals wherever he went, from a neighborhood mutt named Dusty as a toddler, the family cat Charlie as a child, to the woodchuck who took up residence in his yard as an adult. He got his first babysitting gig at just 10 years old playing with a child down the block, and he would continue to delight in the animals and children he crossed paths with for the rest of his life.

He attended St. Mary's Academy where his antics continued, much to the chagrin of the nuns who would serve as material for his jokes for the rest of his life. After graduating from Hudson High School in 1973 he earned a degree in - to no one's surprise - Theater from SUNY Plattsburgh, before hitchhiking across the country, amassing friends and stories that his children never tired of hearing. He settled into a career working for the state for 28 years, first for the Office of Child and Family Services, then Temporary

Assistance for Needy Families, and finally the Office of Disability Services. Aside from his commitment to social work, he was also known amongst his colleagues for routinely asking when the drink cart would arrive, which they finally followed through with on the day he retired.

Don met his beloved wife, Lisa, through his sister Eileen, who watched Lisa's daughter. Their courtship consisted of talking, laughing, listening to music, and spending as much time in the water as possible - this would serve as the foundation of their nearly three decade relationship. Don and Lisa married in 1998 in a small backyard ceremony with Eileen as the maid of honor and Dan Rogers, Don's friend since kindergarten, as the best man. These nuptials made Don the "bonus father" to two children, Caitie and Christie, whose affection he earned by taking them fishing, camping on Long Lake, and buying them more pizza than they could ever eat. After endless cajoling from his new daughters, Don brought home a dog, Mookie, who they would dote on ferociously until 2000 when Don and Lisa had a son, Michael, who has been the primary object of the family's affection ever since. In 2017 Don became a grandfather - or as he preferred to be called, "Poppow" - and he relished his new role of bouncing a baby and sneaking his granddaughter Mike and Ikes when his daughter wasn't looking. His children will most cherish the memories of him and their mom dancing around the kitchen, family singalongs to Ingrid Michaelson's You and I, and sitting at the kitchen table swapping stories with music playing in the background.

In his free time, Don enjoyed participating in community theater. He fully embodied the saying "no small roles, only small actors" by completely shining in every part he took on, even if it had just a few lines. His favorite ever part was the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz, which he reprised three times. He also spent his time serving as a reading mentor at the local elementary school and loved running lines with his son, also a Theater major who shares Don's penchant for drama. He was an avid fan of the Mets and Giants, often

superstitiously insisting his wife stand by the dishwasher during important moments in the game because that's where she was standing when the Giants won the Superbowl. He enjoyed fly fishing, reading murder mysteries, completing the daily crossword with his wife, watching Law and Order, and playing with his grandchildren.

Don leaves behind his wife, Lisa Westermann Dolan; three sisters Eileen Dolan (Patrick Maloy), Helen Dolan (Doug Schmidt), and Mary Ann Dolan (Joe Concra); son Michael Dolan; daughters Caitie Hilverman (Ron Hilverman) and Christie Hilliard; grandchildren Poppy and Clifford Hilverman; and many well-loved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Don's calling hours will be held at Bates and Anderson funeral home on Green Street in Hudson on Tuesday, August 2nd from 4 to 7pm. Private funeral services will be held on Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to Upstage Productions, a community theater group in Hudson of which Don was an active participant, at P.O. Box 1177, Hudson, NY 12534. To honor Don, sit down with a loved one, pour yourself an Absolut and club with no fruit, and listen to Parting Glass by The Clancy Brothers. "Good night and joy be to you all."

# Previous Events

## Visitation Hours

AUG 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler  
110 Green Street  
Hudson, NY 12534  
(518) 828-3371  
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Met Donald "Duck" Dolan thru my friend Dan Rogers in the late 70's. He was a good soul. Funny, talented and talkative. We became friends living in Albany area.  
Condolences to his wife and family.  
RIP my friend!  
John Pluchino

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john pluchino - August 22, 2022 at 01:46 PM

CH

“ 22 files added to the album don



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caitie h - August 04, 2022 at 02:17 PM

MC

“ Met “Duck” living across the hall in Harrington Hall at the ‘burgh. Truly enjoyed his company for the next three years. He was one of the really good guys. Sounds like he lived life with the same enthusiasm we had back then. My sincere sympathies to his family and all who loved him.

*This lyric came to mind when I heard Don passed.*

*Set out runnin' but I take my time*

*A friend of the Devil is a friend of mine*

*If I get home before daylight*

*I just might get some sleep tonight*

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**Mike Corrigan** - August 03, 2022 at 07:11 PM

BK

“ I worked with Don at the SCR and OCFS years ago and remember many great conversations about the Mets, fishing and his family. He was hilarious and was one of the most genuinely nice people I have ever known. My condolences to you all. I will miss him. Cheers Don!  
Brian Kelley

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**Brian Kelley** - August 02, 2022 at 07:08 PM

BV

“ Nice guy. Many memories in school. RIP. Always

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**Bob Vining** - August 01, 2022 at 05:21 PM

LG

“ Sending love and support to the family. I worked with Don at the SCR many years ago and only have fond and fun memories of him. He was kind, compassionate and an amazing co-worker and person.

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**Lori Gilmartin** - August 01, 2022 at 04:56 PM

DS

“ During high school a group of us car pooled to Hudson High School each day with Don. The contingent of Don, Matt, Cazzie, Tommy, and myself presented a tough early morning audience, but Don was the maestro of enthusiasm and engagement. This is but one of many great memories of a wonderful person and friend. With deepest sympathies to the Dolan family,  
David Soule

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**David Soule** - August 01, 2022 at 11:20 AM

SM

“ I worked with Don at OCFS, and have many fond memories of him. He would sing snippets of Rod Stewart songs, bestow the occasional nickname on a member of his unit, talk about Hudson as "The Naked City", and come out with many witty remarks in general. I have not seen him in a decade or two (though I would have gone to a play he was in if I'd known about it at the time!), but I feel very sad that he passed away. I knew he was devoted to his family, and I am so sorry for your loss. The obituary is a beautiful tribute, and demonstrates that you all will smile at your memories of him for the rest of your lives. Susan Mattice, Colonie, NY

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**Susan Mattice** - August 01, 2022 at 11:12 AM

SC

“ Our deepest Sympathy to the entire family. What great memories of time spent with Don all the years in Hudson. Seeing him during my returns to the Hudson area were always lots of Fun and of course Entertaining. A kind and caring man but could bust butt with the best of us. May God Bless him, and all of us, everyone, as we morn his passing.

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**Shelly Conary** - August 01, 2022 at 09:45 AM

PK

“ Sincere condolences. Don was fun and funny. More importantly, Don was kind and thoughtful. Pam Knowles (SCR family)

Pamela Knowles - August 01, 2022 at 08:30 AM

TB

“ I knew this incredible man through our working together for Office of Children and Family Services( previously NYS DSS). Don was a delight to be around and one person who could always make me laugh. Don was a bright light in many days at work. Lisa, Michael, Caitie, and Christie ,I am so sorry for your loss. I remember meeting Lisa at an after work function shortly after they began dating. One look at this beautiful couple on the dance floor, and I knew they were to be together. And Don so often talked of his "daughters" and how he loved them and of Michael. He filled with pride and love talking of his children. I am so sorry for your loss. He was a great guy to be around. Fly high my friend, I know you loved ST Patrick's Day and I promise to raise a pint for you on ST Patrick's Day!  
Tina Bowman

Tina M Bowman - July 31, 2022 at 11:32 PM

LB

I'm very sorry to receive this sad news. Knew Don since high school. Had many good times with "Duck". Haven't seen Don in many years but have great memories...RIP Duck...see you on the other side...this is from Lance Boswell

Lance Boswell - August 01, 2022 at 07:52 PM

SH

“ So sorry for your loss. I have many great memories of Don when we worked together at OCFS.

Sandi Haggett - July 31, 2022 at 10:22 PM

SC

“ Susan Clark lit a candle in memory of Donald A. Dolan



Susan Clark - July 31, 2022 at 09:56 PM

MB

“ Don shared Harrington Hall’s shenanigans at PSUC with me and many other friends. He sang, danced and partied like no other. I was blessed to stay in touch through Dan and Facebook postings. And honored to have attended his wedding to Lisa. We still cant figure out how he snagged that beauty! Luck of the Irish and charm of a gentleman. Heaven is better with you in it. Earth lost a great guy. Love to all the Dolans. A drink at Melinos?

michele brumsey - July 31, 2022 at 09:43 PM

SG

“ Dear Dolan Family, I had the honor to work with Don for many years, to be his upstairs neighbor, his friend and driving instructor. He was truly a delight. He brought laughter and kindness to all around him. My heartfelt condolences to you all. May the memories of him warm your heart and keep you smiling.

Sheryl and Frank Galinski - July 31, 2022 at 07:31 PM

SC

“ Susie & Charlie Crumb sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald A. Dolan



Susie & Charlie Crumb - July 31, 2022 at 12:23 PM

CB

“ *What a beautiful obituary for a truly remarkable man. I remember playing army men with Donald as kids, and I gave him all of mine, as well as my baseball cards, when we moved from Robinson Street. Donald’s performances in local theater productions never disappointed. He was a born entertainer. Sincere condolences to Lisa and the family. May Donald rest in eternal peace.*

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**Cynthia Tiano Bogardus** - July 30, 2022 at 08:14 PM

KC

“ *Kathleen Delaney Conklin lit a candle in memory of Donald A. Dolan*



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**Kathleen Delaney Conklin** - July 30, 2022 at 07:21 PM

NP

“ *I was able to meet Don a while back since my wife, Brenda, and Lisa are long time friends. He treated me as a good friend with much respect. Once he knew I was a retired Navy diver and he had a pool we were totally friends. Don will be solely missed. God will listen to his jokes and the heavens will shake with laughter. Fair winds and following seas, Don.*

*Nic Parham*

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**Nic and Brenda Parham** - July 30, 2022 at 06:46 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Donald A. Dolan.* ”



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July 30, 2022 at 05:29 PM