



Allan Donnay

June 9, 1947 - March 23, 2020

Allan Donnay, 72, was called home suddenly by The Lord on March 23, 2020. He faced the challenges of bladder cancer (diagnosed in October) with determination, a positive attitude and amazing support from his family and friends. The many complications in recovering from surgery were simply too much to overcome.

Al was known for giving the best hugs, his big smile, firm handshake and huge heart. Born to Arthur and Agnes, Al was the oldest of seven siblings: CarolAnn (Dale) Zika, Jerry (Dorothy) Donnay, Joseph (Laureen) Donnay, Diane (Jim) Schwartz, Melanie (Mike) Bevers, Colleen Moore and Jeffrey Donnay. Raised on the family farm, he learned to appreciate the efforts of hard work and began his love of all things mechanical and the great outdoors. At 18, he proudly enlisted in the Marine Corps. After serving two tours in Vietnam, he returned home and married his wife, Jeani, of 45 years. They had two children, Jeff (Emily) Donnay and Krysten (Aaron) Schwartz, of whom he was immensely proud. The family enjoyed camping trips in their RV, which housed many of their cherished memories. Al particularly loved “going out West” to the mountains. His passion for people was evident in every aspect of his life, including his 45-year career in sales with Miller Auto. Like many things, he did it in his own way by focusing on relationships, treating people well and doing the right thing. This created many lasting friendships.

In 2009, Al settled into retirement, which he said was “the best job ever.” His retirement included continuing to work seasonally delivering pontoons for Miller Marine, rounding out 51 years of working at the dealership. He loved golf, hunting, traveling and snowmobiling, and he was always up for a game of cards. What he enjoyed most in life were his five granddaughters, Ava, Mya, Ivy, Addie and Emmie. He cherished each of them and showered them with his larger-than-life love and affection. We will miss our Papa Bear. We know he is looking down on all of us with that famous smile, protecting us with his firm grip and sending us a hug any time we need one.

Due to current restrictions on social gatherings, a celebration of life will be planned when it is safe to gather. Al would love nothing more than to have those he had an impact on

come together in his honor. To help the family keep you informed of the celebration details, please send an email to CelebratingAI@gmail.com and include your favorite AI story.

Comments

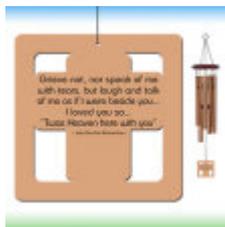


“ Allan and I are first cousins on our fathers side. Allan was born in June of '47"and I was born the following December. We were raised on farms approximately 10 miles apart. Our families (both large)spent many happy days and evenings playing softball, capture the flag and "night games" while growing up. Our teenage years included helping out on each others farm.While we would be considered too young for many of the farm duties we did in those days, we understood the dangers well enough to get the work done and still survive.The equipment was subject to breakdowns and other performance issues. There is little doubt that all of the activities on those farms helped frame our personalities and life decisions. Having said this, one of my most notable memories of Allan is that I never saw him become visibly angry in the face of his frustrations and disappointments.
Here's hoping that sometime in the future Allan will meet us all again to enjoy those childhood activities.

Steve Donnay - April 26, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ Cross Wind Chime - Bronze was purchased for the family of Allan Donnay.



April 01, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ Al was a great friend of mine. Through the years we made a lot of memories together golfing, hunting and just getting together for breakfast. We did a lot of golfing together and one memory I have is when we would accidentally hit the golf ball into the woods and have to look for it and, after looking for awhile, if I said it was time to go he would end up going deeper into the woods!! I learned to be patient and help him look for the golf balls, of course he would usually come out with the most ones found! But, it was for a good cause as Al would take them all home, clean them up and donate them to the school's golf team. This is just one of many memories I have over the years with my good friend Al and will miss the big guy greatly!

Darrel Ashfeld

Darrel Ashfeld - March 30, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ My name is Mitch Maile I've known Allan for most of my life as I worked in the car business most of my life. I also hunted deer in Montana with Alan and around 20 other people. One year while hunting in Montana we had fresh snow, the rancher told half of us to cross the Boxelder Creek on his property as his son was just there and there are a lot of deer in the area, so we did. We had some luck across the Boxelder Creek, that afternoon it was warming up and the fresh snow all melted, as we approached the creek we noticed the creek we crossed earlier that day was now a deep flowing river. We had no choice but to go for it, with my dad at the wheel we attempted to cross, we got about half way across the water was up to the windshield and the truck stalled. We called on the CB radio for help from the guys on the other side, I think it was Clarence Nothnagel's truck that backed up as close as he could to us. They threw a rope to us but it fell short splashing about 20 feet from the truck, without hesitation Allan undressed down to his looms swam in the creek with the rope in hand with ice flowing next to him in the freezing cold water and he hooked up the rope so we could be pulled to the safety of the other side. That took a special kind of person to do what Alan did. After returning to St. Cloud Alan became a celebrity at work as there were many pictures to document his rescue. I miss you Alan but now you are in heaven with Ken & Clarence Nothnagel my brother Bruce and many more. With tears in my eyes I'm blessed with having you as a friend, your friend Mitch

Mitch Maile - March 29, 2020 at 12:52 PM



“ Lavender Sympathy Box was purchased for the family of Allan Donnay.



March 29, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ I was heart broken when I saw this. Al was always smiling. He made a heck of a great Santa. My SINCERE Sympathies to the whole family.

Jan Mick - March 28, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Allan Donnay.



March 27, 2020 at 03:51 PM



“ Jeani and Family,
My mom called today with the news of Allan's passing. My heart just aches for you all. I remember him being "a presence" in any room. He commanded attention in a good, jovial way. It felt like he could just take care of any situation. I always appreciated my time with you and your family, they are good memories that bring back smiles. I hope your memories bring you comfort during this really difficult time.
-Rachel (Thralow) Otremba

Rachel Otremba - March 27, 2020 at 03:35 PM



“ Jeani & Family,
I'm so sorry to hear Allan passed away. It's been many,many years since I last saw him, but lots of memories of walking past the Donnay farm to and from country school each and every day and riding school bus together. Jeani, I pray his memories will always be close in your hearts. God Bless.

Donna Pramann Olson - March 27, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Allan Donnay.



March 26, 2020 at 09:19 PM