



Donnell 'Donni' Alice Call

April 25, 1957 - August 11, 2018

Donni was born on April 25, 1957 in New Orleans, Louisiana and passed away on August 11, 2018 in Independence at the young age of 61 after a brief illness. She graduated from the Academy of Sacred Heart in New Orleans, where she was a National Merit Scholar Finalist. Donni completed her formal education from Johns Hopkins University, but she enjoyed continuously learning throughout her life and was an insatiable reader. Donni was very well respected nationwide for her contributions to the Convention and Meetings Industry, chartering an association of her peers, serving on national boards, and contributing to countless industry sessions and panels.

Donni loved and cared for cats and dogs throughout her life. She enjoyed volunteering with and donating to various animal welfare organizations. She also enjoyed cooking and perfecting various recipes for her family. Donni was a devoted daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. She is already missed by all who knew and loved her.

Donni leaves behind her mother, Rosemary McDonnell Call Wilson; sister, Davlin Call Kerekes; brother-in-law, George Alexander Kerekes; nieces, Alexandra Donnell Kerekes and Davlin Kerekes Campbell; nephew-in-law, Larry Gerald Campbell; and great niece, Violet Davlin Campbell.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation from the chapel of Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home, Hammond, on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - Hammond, LA
12012 Highway 190 W
Hammond, LA 70401
(225) 567-1884

Tribute Wall

JA

“ *To Donni's Family:
We are so sorry to hear of Donni's passing. We cherish the opportunities we had to work with Donni when Pittcon was in New Orleans. We will always remember her infectious smile, her pleasant and helpful manner, her friendship and her love for the job she performed with such diligence, expertise, grace and style. May God provide her with a special place in heaven as her eternal home.
Jay and Chris Auses
(Jay was president of Pittcon '92 in New Orleans.)*

John P Auses - December 05, 2018 at 10:20 PM

JV

“ *Donni was a great friend of the Pittsburgh Conference (Pittcon) that was held numerous times at the New Orleans Convention Center. She not only served the conference extremely well when there, but was considered part of the Pittcon "family".*



John Varine - December 04, 2018 at 01:39 PM

DA

“ Though It has been over a month since I found out Donni had died, I still can hardly accept that her bright light is gone from this world. Though I last saw her, by pure happenstance, under the D.H. Holmes clock, shortly before Christmas 1979, I always hoped and prayed that her life would be long, happy, and full of love. I've missed her all these years and now will miss her until, if it's God's will, we meet again in Heaven.



I hope there's some solace in sharing a few happy memories with her family and friends here.

Donni-isms from JHU years

“Coping is for people who can't sleep.” We did a lot of sleeping—we were great at it. Coping, not so much, but we still made it through the academic grinder of JHU.

Donni found this in the Oxford English Dictionary: “Now to make hypotaxis out of parataxis we must have a joint.” Yep, she read the OED. And found the one joke. That, while we were reading, analyzing, taking seminars, and writing on roughly 1000 pages of serious literature, history, philosophy, and foreign language material each week. It was intense, if not insane. Donni's smile, sweet voice, wit, joie de vivre, and gentle touch made it not just bearable, but wonderful.

Dogs are “woofers.” Cats are just “kitties,” because, well, they're not woofers. We were “dog people,”

I gave her a drawing/print of a resting fawn, bought at the Hopkins Spring Fair, for her 20th birthday--she called it “fin-chwid,” which I guess was derived from “fawn child.” Her beautifully lilting voice made everything sound magical.

We went to a Fleetwood Mac concert at Annapolis with several friends. Quite the road-trip. We were all enjoying the music and comraderie, when one of our friends offered Donni a brownie. I was pretty sure it was a "pot brownie." Neither Donni nor I (I was driving) were partaking in that kind of "partying," but the music was so loud, I couldn't warn Donni. Apparently, it was really good, regardless of any "additives" because it was quickly gone. She was appalled, but ultimately shrugged it off with her beautiful laugh. Donni kept her composure and beautiful, fun demeanor through it all.

Can't ever forget when she would sing her unerring assessment of all things dull and pompous: "Boooooorrrriiiiiinnngggg!"

Day Allaxed - September 26, 2018 at 04:46 AM

DA

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Day Allaxed - September 26, 2018 at 03:54 AM

DA

“ Here are the entries from *The Advocate Guestbook* that was taken offline 9/15/18.



August 21, 2018

I remember Donnell so fondly from our time together at Sacred Heart. She was so smart and funny. I just can't believe it and send my prayers to her family.

Geralyn Hagemann

August 19, 2018

Sleep peacefully, Donni.

LeDoux Faust,

New Orleans

August 18, 2018

Donni, it was such a pleasure to know you. We shared an office at OTSI, our desks faced each other. I don't think we got much work done, sorry Sally. My spelling was so bad, and yours so good, I never spelt "renowned" correctly. You ribbed me about that every time I ran into you, for years! You will be sadly missed for your dry sense of humor and your sweet disposition. Bye bye girlfriend,

Carolyn

Carolyn Clark,

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 17, 2018

Donni was one of the most loving and talented people I have ever known. From our formative days at OTSI and the many years that followed, I could always count on her to make me laugh with her brilliant wit.

You are sadly missed by Liz Scoggin Dodson

Day Allaxed - September 17, 2018 at 01:00 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Day Allaxed - August 30, 2018 at 04:12 PM

DA

This was the window that cast its warm light on Donni and those of us honored to share her table in the Hutzler Undergraduate Reading Room. The lights of Donni's eyes and smile were always brighter, even on the sunniest days.

Day Allaxed - September 02, 2018 at 11:35 PM

DA

“ *Donni was a beautiful, fun, wonderfully smart, capable, and kind woman. It was a blessing to have known her. I'm confident she's with God and His angels now. I pray for peace and comfort for her mother, sister, and all their family and friends. May wonderful, happy, loving memories of Donni shine through grief.*

Day Allaxed - August 20, 2018 at 11:59 AM



“ I was shocked and very sad to hear of Donni's passing ... she was far too young. I had the joy of working with Donni for many years when she was at NOCC. We forged a friendship, and I used to "sneak" to her office for smoke breaks and conversation. Conferences are stressful for those putting them on. Donni always keep me balanced, fixed anything that had gone awry, and we laughed alot over silly things to break the tension. I still have a cartoon that Donni sent me ... one of our favorite treats onsite were Dove bars. She sent me a very funny cartoon about dove bars one year after our conference. I came to NOLA one year for my birthday and Donni was kind enough to join my husband and me along with some other friends for a birthday dinner - something I was told she didn't do very often, so I was very touched. She was such a kind, loving, funny lady. I have thought about what the most meaningful thing would be to do in her honor, and because of her love for animals I plan to make a donation in her name to an animal rescue organization. I think she would like that best. Your family is in my prayers.



Pamela Henry - August 18, 2018 at 02:28 PM

DA

“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Day Allaxed - August 17, 2018 at 05:28 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Day Allaxed - August 17, 2018 at 03:38 PM

DA

Donni's beauty wasn't skin deep--it shown from her intellect and soul.

Day Allaxed - August 17, 2018 at 05:04 PM

CA

“ *Donni, Yvette stole some of my thoughts but I will always remember you as a great personal friend but also as a great friend to Freeman and the industry. You always had a way to make me laugh and I have always remembered that. Now you are home. Rest is peace.*



Claudette Arceneaux - August 16, 2018 at 01:47 PM

VG

“ *So sorry to hear of Donni's passing I always remember one summer during college she was home from Hopkins We both worked for Orleans transportation/gray line tours. We worked hard, played hard. and made a lot of money. My prayers for her family and friends.*

Venezia Gordon - August 15, 2018 at 06:11 PM

YG

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Donni’s passing and praying for Mrs. Rosemary, Dav, George, the girls and of course the pups! Donni was a dear, dear friend, and mentor who taught me so much. We shared many years of life’s events, her wisdom saw me through troubled times, and countless great events too! So many times we laughed til it hurt, and spent countless hours of conversation finishing each other’s thoughts and sentences. Always steadfast to help keep things in perspective, Donni was a good leader. As an addendum to the obituary, I would like to add that Donni was very well respected nationwide for her contributions to the Convention and Meetings Industry, chartering an association of her peers, serving on national boards, and contributing to countless industry sessions and panels. Perhaps the most well read person any of us will ever know— and most certainly the only person I will ever know who would read an entire Harry Potter novel twice, in one day! It was both a privilege and blessing to have shared a good part of my life with Donni. May she rest peacefully in the care of our Lord.

Yvette Genova - August 15, 2018 at 12:32 AM

DC

I added your lovely addendum, thank you. This was beautiful to read.

Davlin Campbell - August 15, 2018 at 11:16 PM

LW

“ Donnie you will be missed, I didn't know Friday morning at 9am that would be the last time I would talk to you or see you and we will continue to watch out for your mom, you were the best neighbor anyone could ask for, so take you rest, Linda, Jimmy and Joe.

Linda Wess - August 14, 2018 at 05:32 PM

YG

I am deeply saddened to learn of Donni's passing and praying for Mrs. Rosemary, Dav, George, the girls and of course the pups! Donni was a dear, dear friend, and mentor who taught me so much. We shared many years of life's events, her wisdom saw me through troubled times, and countless great events too! So many times we laughed til it hurt, and spent countless hours of conversation finishing each other's thoughts and sentences. Always steadfast to help keep things in perspective, Donni was a good leader. As an addendum to the obituary, I would like to add that Donni was very well respected nationwide for her contributions to the Convention and Meetings Industry, chartering an association of her peers, serving on national boards, and contributing to countless industry sessions and panels. Perhaps the most well read person any of us will ever know— and most certainly the only person I will ever know who would read an entire Harry Potter novel twice, in one day! It was both a privilege and blessing to have shared a good part of my life with Donni. May she rest peacefully in the care of our Lord.

Yvette Genova - August 15, 2018 at 12:19 AM



“ *Donnie we will miss you so much take your rest I'll make sure my mama continue to be the best neighbor as she was before you left us until we meet again Love
Shuna, Emery, Derrick, Semaj*



Tashuna Washington - August 14, 2018 at 05:16 PM