



Donald L. "Don" Gorski

March 11, 1949 - January 15, 2025

Donald L. "Don" Gorski died January 15, 2025, at the age of 75, after a courageous eight year battle with multiple medical problems. Don was born on March 11, 1949, in Cleveland, OH, to the late Donald F. and Lenore Gorski. He graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1967. Don later earned a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University and a master's degree from Cleveland State University.

For over 30 years, Don taught mathematics in the Willoughby-Eastlake School District. During the early 1970's through the mid-to-late 1980's, he also coached tennis, track, and cross country. Don later coached middle school teams in academic competitions. Among many accomplishments he was particularly proud that his stock market team won the Ohio state championship in 2002. Don loved to teach, coach and interact with students. After his retirement from Willoughby-Eastlake in 2002 Don taught college algebra at Cuyahoga Community College for many years until his sudden illness in 2016.

Throughout his life Don touched the lives of many people. He had a gregarious spirit who loved to socialize, talk and entertain. Don also had a strong sense of empathy, compassion and an exceptionally generous heart. For many years prior to his sudden illness he volunteered each week at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to help prepare and serve meals to the poor

and homeless. Don also gave generously to many animal rescue and humanitarian charities as well.

During the last eight years of his life, as Don struggled with one medical problem after another, he fought with incredible strength and resilience to stay alive. Don ultimately lost this battle, but he left behind a legacy that will always be cherished and remembered by everyone who knows and loves him.

Don is survived by his partner, Karl Strohbehn, his sister, Donna (Alice), two nieces Kelly (Josh) White and Jennifer (Rob) Walker along with many cousins and friends.

A funeral mass to honor Don's life will be held 12 noon Friday, January 24, 2025 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor, Ohio (Everyone is asked to please meet at the church.)

Don will be laid to rest in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Don, the family requests contributions be made to an animal rescue charity of one's choice or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, donate online at www.stjude.org.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

All Souls Cemetery

10366 Chardon Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024
(800) 582-6850

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
7575 Bellflower Road
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-0600

Tribute Wall

RM

“ was so sorry to read that don has passed he fought hard and now he can rest and be with mom and dad

roxanne manning - January 21, 2025 at 10:10 AM

BS

“ Barb Lee and Jody Strohbehn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald L. "Don" Gorski.

Barb Lee and Jody Strohbehn - January 20, 2025 at 04:51 PM

BS

“ Barb Lee and Jody Strohbehn purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Donald L. "Don" Gorski.



Barb Lee and Jody Strohbehn - January 20, 2025 at 04:51 PM

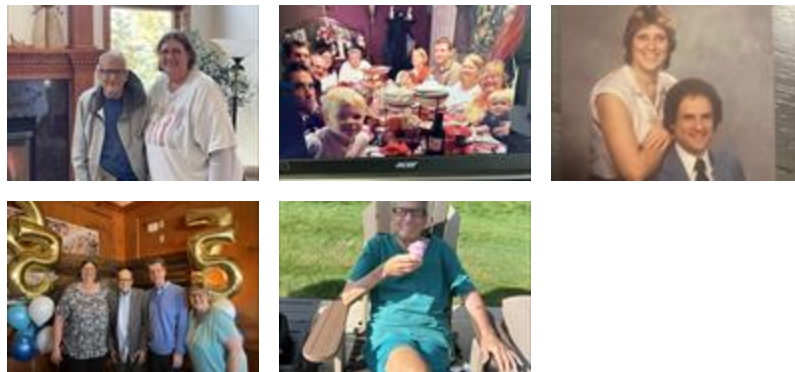
UR

“ Oh do I remember Mr. Gorski, what a wonderful fun loving guy. I worked in the cafeteria at Willowick Middle school, when Don taught there. Don always had a big smile and could brighten your day if it was going bad. The students absolutely loved him. Don you will be missed, prayers for Don and his family

Ursula - January 20, 2025 at 12:43 PM

DG

“ 5 files added to the album Family



Donna Gorski - January 19, 2025 at 12:03 PM

LS

“ Love, Tom and Shawana planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald L. "Don" Gorski.

Love, Tom and Shawana - January 18, 2025 at 08:24 PM

LS

“ Love, Tom and Shawana purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald L. "Don" Gorski.



Love, Tom and Shawana - January 18, 2025 at 08:24 PM

SJ

“ What an honor to know Don all these years and then to meet Karl through him. I am Faye's sister so I feel like he is always been in my life (well at least since I was 14). We have always been able to spend wonderful time together and Don just made me laugh and remembered everything. He was so easy to speak with. Then when he brought Karl into our lives the impact of you both was even more of a blessing. It was so wonderful being on the same side of town so we were never far from each other. Karl we would not have had Don this long if it weren't for you.... So thank you and bless you for all your kindnesses. Tom and I know your kindness and caring for Don will be returned to you 100 fold.

SHAWANA JOHNSON - January 18, 2025 at 08:16 PM

CS

“ He was a sweet kind teacher at JFK Jr. I loved him as a teacher and he was such a positive role model. Mr. Gorski was always there to answer a question, lend an ear or share a laugh or smile. He will be remembered with fondest memories shared.

Cindy (Holt) Buchanan (former student) - January 18, 2025 at 07:56 PM

KC

“ I was so blessed to have the privilege of knowing Don. I met him through my Aunt Faye. We used to have game night at my aunt's house with many of her teacher friends, and Don was one of them. Even though I was the youngster in the crowd, Don always made me feel like part of the group. When I decided to go into teaching, he would always enjoy hearing my "teacher stories" from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. My favorite memory was when he and Roy (another teacher friend of my aunt's), went to Toronto. We had such a fun time, and Don always had a joke or story to make us laugh. Thank you Karl for taking such good care of Don after he got sick. Don would not have survived this many years without your vigilant care and determination. Rest in peace Don, and thank you for what you gave to all your students and to all of us over these many years.

Karen Cantrick - January 18, 2025 at 04:07 PM

LJ

“ My condolences to Karl, Donna, and the rest of Don's family and friends. One of the best memories of Don was meeting him at the school where we taught and cultivating a friendship that lasted 53 years. We had such wonderful times together with our other friends and our families. He was such a kind, generous, loving, and funny person. I will miss his stories which made me laugh so hard. There are so many memories which I will cherish forever!! ❤️🙏

L. Faye Johnson - January 18, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald L. "Don" Gorski.

January 18, 2025 at 02:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald L. "Don" Gorski.*



January 18, 2025 at 02:29 PM