



## Donald Lee Decker

April 18, 1943 - August 31, 2025

Donald Lee Decker, affectionately known as Don, Donny and “Big D”, passed away on August 31, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 82 years old.

Born on April 18, 1943 in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. He was the only child of Donald and Rose Decker and was a proud, lifelong resident of his home state. Don was a graduate of South Lake High School, in St. Clair Shores (1961). He went on to build a successful, lifelong career in sales, thriving in a variety of fields from advertising to automobiles and real estate. Don’s work ethic was matched only by his infectious personality — jovial, personable and inherently likable, he truly had a gift for connecting with others.

Don’s adventurous spirit was captivated by Michigan’s great outdoors. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, boater, and snowmobiler, embracing every season as a new opportunity to explore. Whether casting a line in Gladwin, snowmobiling in Rapid City, or marveling at the Upper Peninsula’s waterfalls, Don found joy in the natural beauty of his surroundings. He also enjoyed the thrill of the occasional casino visit, adding yet another dimension to his zest for life.

Don shared 35 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Joanne (Giuffrida) Decker. Together, they built a life rooted in love, laughter and friendship. Don

and Joanne truly enjoyed one another's company — they not only lived and loved as one, they ran two successful businesses together as well. Don will be deeply missed by Joanne; his daughter, Nancy Moug (Glenn), grandchildren Travis, Amanda Zavosky (Andrew) and great granddaughter Audrey; stepson Joseph Pehote (Kelly), grandsons Clint (2001-2024) and Cole (Grace); stepson John Pehote (Melody), and grandchildren Garrett (Elena) and great grandson Logan, Emma Lehal (Arshi) and Jack (Samantha), as well as all those fortunate enough to have known his warmth and wit.

At Don's request, private services will be held at a later date for immediate family only. Don will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him, remembered always for his warmth, humor, and zest for life. His legacy lives on in the stories shared, the memories cherished, and the Michigan landscapes he so dearly loved.

# Tribute Wall

FL

“ Don was always a joy to be with, making everyone feel happy to be with him. My condolences to JoAnn and his family along with my thanks for making his life joyful.

*There are too many stores to tell here, albeit to say Don's way of sharing them made the difference. He will be missed and I am proud to say our being together made my life better.*

*I take great comfort in knowing that when its my turn to take the journey that Don will be there to show me the way.*

*See ya, Don*

*Fred (Butch) Lawrence*

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**Fred Lawrence** - September 22, 2025 at 11:25 AM

RJ

“ Don was a positive, loving person. He stuck me as high-energy, positive thinker with a mischievous grin. He had an infectious laugh. He enjoyed laughter and every day of life. Don always looked so great even with his health struggles.

*Don was a fun guy to be around. Rick enjoyed listening to his pheasant-hunting years. He shared some good stories with Rick.*

*Our deepest sympathies to Don's wife, JoAnn, and family. JoAnn took such good and loving care of Don. She was the air beneath his wings. JoAnn and his family provided crucial support and strength when he needed it most.*

*We love you, Don.*

*Rick and Judy Jackson*

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**RICHY JACKSON** - September 19, 2025 at 05:44 PM

JK

“ Don was one of the favorite cousins and will be greatly missed, he always brought the best out of everybody at the family events and always had a great attitude. Condolences' to JoAnn and the family. Love always cousins Jeanne and Kenny.

jeanne krause - September 18, 2025 at 09:59 AM

MP

“ He will be missed.

Melody Pehote - September 16, 2025 at 12:06 PM

JO

“ You will be missed

John - September 15, 2025 at 12:08 PM

VM

“ So sorry our friendship was cut short. We cherish being able to spend some time with you. We'll do our best to support your family. RIP

Your Neighbors; Vickie & Mike

Vickie & Mike - September 14, 2025 at 07:37 PM

MP

“ We will always remember Don for his wonderful sense of humor and contagious laugh! He always had a smile on his face. He loved being around friends and family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Joanne. May Don rest in peace 🙏  
Margo, Marc, Stephen and Carly Perrino

Margo Perrino - September 12, 2025 at 10:32 PM

DE

“ My sincerest sympathy and Prayers for Don, Joanne, and family. Don & I were in the same homeroom & friends from 3rd grade through school. Renewed friendship when my oldest son & Nancy were born. Lost contact with his move north. But, have many memories of the fun guy he always was.

**Dave Ernst** - September 12, 2025 at 11:20 AM

SS

“ Prayers for him and his family. Went to South Lake with him also, 1961. Nice guy. So sorry for your loss. Sheila (Sproder) Schebil

**sheila schebil** - September 11, 2025 at 09:17 PM

SG

“ My deepest Sympathy to Don's wife Joanne and Family, I went to South Lake High and graduated with him in 1961, prayers for all of you. Sheila (Detroyer) Gambino



**Sheila (Detroyer) Gambino** - September 11, 2025 at 05:48 PM

NW

*My heart goes out to Joanne and family, Don was a very special person and close friend of my late husband and I. I will hold on to all our wonderful memories and such good times that we had spent together, I will keep Joanna and family in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Noreen Walter** - September 11, 2025 at 07:00 PM

JJ

*I talked to Joanne a week or so ago and she told me a fascinating love story about how she and Donnie met. She said her life felt like a dream, their shared passions turning ordinary days into excitement and loving memories. Donnie, thank you for the light you brought to every room and the warmth you left in every heart.*

*Cousin Jerry and the Jackson family.*

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**Jerry Lee Jackson** - September 19, 2025 at 07:05 PM