



## Donald Richard Larabell

April 28, 1947 - August 12, 2025

Donald Richard Larabell of Shelby Township, MI, died Tuesday evening August 12, 2025. Born in Grosse Pointe, MI on Monday, April 28, 1947, he was a proud graduate of Grosse Pointe High School in 1965. Having an aptitude for sales, he worked at Sears during high school before a successful 30+ year career at Michigan Bell/AT&T. In retirement he enjoyed playing cards, golf, bocci ball; working various 2nd careers and part-time jobs; traveling and enjoying his home in Sterling Heights.

He married his bride of 57 years, Barbara (Grajek) Larabell on August 9, 1968. He loved the hours they would spend creating a beautiful home with pride in detailed landscape and entertaining friends and family on the patio. He could be found watching all the Detroit sport teams and discussing the many changes that could make for just one more win. He is predeceased in death by his parents Edgar and Alvina Larabell, brother David and daughter Lisa. He is survived by his wife Barbara, son Brian (Sherrie), daughter Beth (Christopher), his grandchildren: Brianna (Ryan), Alec and Jake; sister Susan; in-laws Joseph (Susie); Ann (Frank); Alan (Jan) and many nieces and nephews.

Don always loved a good “dad” joke and would always try to leave a conversation with the other person smiling or laughing at a story he just retold. He made friends everywhere he went and loved new friends just as much as

friends of over 70 years. He also loved to have the companionship of dogs, both his own and other family members', that he would spoil as if they were his.

He was a proud member of St. Kieran Catholic Church and served many different charities throughout his Catholic life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Michigan Humane Society, <http://www.michiganhumane.org/> or the American Heart Association, <https://www.heart.org/>. Services will take place on Thursday, August 21, instate at 9:30 AM and Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Kieran Catholic Church, 53600 Mound Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316.

Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at [WujekCalcaterra.com](http://WujekCalcaterra.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

AUG 21. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Kieran  
53600 Mound  
Shelby Twp., MI 48316

## Memorial Mass

AUG 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Kieran  
53600 Mound  
Shelby Twp., MI 48316

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Oh Barb, I am so sorry to hear about Don. My condolences and prayers are with you and your family. Sincerely Judy Somerville.

Judy Somerville - August 20, 2025 at 09:55 PM

PK

“ Don had a smile, always friendly and always remembered. God is with him in Heaven.

Patrice Kraft - August 16, 2025 at 08:12 AM

MM

“ I was so sorry to hear this news. I enjoyed catching up with Don at my nieces wedding just a few months ago. I enjoyed seeing Barb & Don together at weddings & grad parties. My heart & prayers go out to the entire family.

Margaret Madigan - August 15, 2025 at 07:36 PM

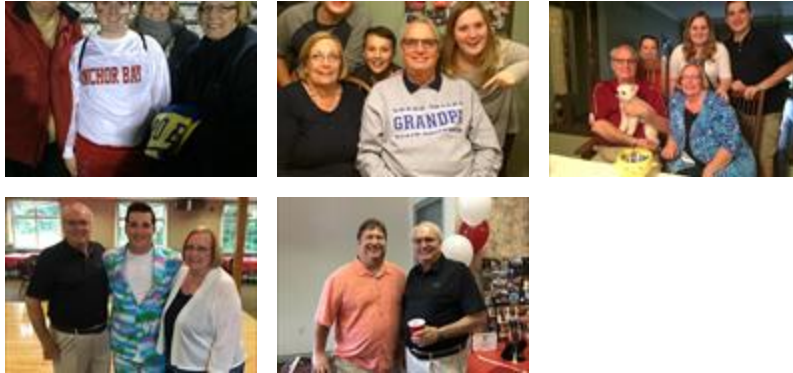
BM

“ May all the wonderful memories of Don comfort you and bring you peace in the days ahead. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Our deepest sympathy, Brian Meehan and Joanne Jones-Meehan

Brian Meehan - August 14, 2025 at 05:29 PM

BL

“ RIP Papa Don ☐✚



Brianna Larabell - August 14, 2025 at 03:03 PM

JF

“ *I worked with Don at AT&T for many years and he was always able to put a smile on my face even when the day had been difficult. Smiling and joking were his best defenses against job stress. Even after our retirements we would get together for dinner and laugh so much. Heaven just acquired a smiling and laughing angel.*

Jan Feldmann - August 14, 2025 at 01:20 PM

EL

*Oh my heavens, I'm in total shock!! I'm sick to my stomach with such very sad news. I've known Don since he was in 7th grade, as I was dating his older brother Dave. They were very different in personalities, but just as kind and positive and fun as they could be!!! I'll be in touch with the Larabell family ASAP!! My love is with his wife and kids and grandkids!!*

Evelyn Larabell - August 14, 2025 at 10:32 PM

MD

*"A beautiful light has gone out on earth to shine even brighter in heaven." What I remember most about Don is his great smile and his wonderful laugh. He always seemed to have a twinkle in his eye when telling a story. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Larabell and Grajek families. With love from the DiMambro's, Missy, Mike, Lianne, Marissa and Andy, and Kristin.*

---

**Marie DiMambro** - August 15, 2025 at 08:15 AM