



Donald "Donnie" Lee Garrison

April 21, 1957 - October 6, 2023

Donald "Donnie" Lee Garrison, Age 66 of Hendersonville, TN, was born on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1957, in Williamsburg, VA, and passed away October 6, 2023 in Nashville, TN. He was a graduate of Lafayette High School and Trevecca Nazarene University. Since Don majored in communications, Trevecca called on him to emcee most of their events, which he truly enjoyed. During his time at Trevecca, Don was a member of the Concert Choir and the Ambassador's Choir, allowing him to travel and perform all over the country, forming many deep friendships along the way. His travels with the choir made him the perfect recruiter for Trevecca. Over the years, Don served the Nashville Community as a dedicated Funeral Director, working for various funeral homes throughout the city. His attention to detail, endless compassion, and ability to ease grief through humor is a gift that few have. These qualities also made him the perfect instructor for the bereavement classes at Vanderbilt Nursing School. He was a member of First Church of the Nazarene for 33 years and was baptized on October 17, 1993. Don was a beloved member of the Circle K, the Chapel Choir, and the Heritage Men's Choir.

Preceded in death by his parents, James "Jay" and Doris Garrison; brother, Bill Garrison; nephew, Kris Garrison. He is survived by his brother, David (Terry) Garrison of Cameron, MO; sister, Pat (Ed) Sutherland of Kingsport, TN; eight nephews and one niece; close friends, Karl and Tyler. Visitation will be at First Church of the Nazarene, 510 Woodland St. Nashville, TN 37206, Wednesday, October 18th, from 12 noon until the time of service at 2pm,

Pastor Kevin Ulmet officiating. Interment will follow at Spring Hill Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Spring Hill Cemetery

5110 Gallatin Rd.
Nashville, TN 37216

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 18. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
510 Woodland St.
Nashville, TN 37206

Service

OCT 18. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
510 Woodland St.
Nashville, TN 37206

Tribute Wall

AS

“ Don gosh why couldn't we keep you forever? You're one of those I thought would never leave. Yours was a precious soul to not only our immediate family but also to Phillips Robinson Funeral Home. Your face was one I always expected to see at the funeral home. You, Randy Short and Carolyn were my favorites. Always you made me feel special when I would come in for a Don Garrison hug. You had to be one of the best to prepare my Daddy for burial and I'm so thankful you were the one. You never failed to make Phillips Robinson Funeral Home a better place with your presence. Save me a seat Don and we'll catch up when I get there! Oh the celebrations!!! ❤️ you
Amy

Amy Robinson Sparks - December 27, 2023 at 05:33 PM

CM

*I'm so shocked and sad! I served my apprenticeship under Don and because of him I excelled from a funeral director/embalmer to an owner. Don was a master at his craft and the most professional director I've ever known. I was trying to reach him to ask if he wanted to relocate to the Seattle area to run one of our locations and his obituary popped up. I'll never forget his smile and his sense of humor. The Nashville community sure has lost an amazing guy.
Carolyn Young-McKee
Tuell-McKee Funeral Home
Tacoma, WA*

Carolyn Young McKee - October 17, 2024 at 09:03 PM

RE

“ I was sorry to hear of Donnie's passing. He was a good friend and we worked together in Richmond at both Woody's and Nelsen Funeral Homes.

Richard Estes

Richard Estes - October 16, 2023 at 09:37 AM

DU

“ I will have the privilege of leading Don's service on Wednesday - so will hold most of my comments for then. That said, Don and I became friends in 1978 and never looked back. I never dreamed I would be his pastor these last 12 years. So many memories of college days, and since. We worked so many funerals together when I came to Nashville First as Pastor. So many conversations, so many intensely funny moments and so many tears shed over life, suffering and the human condition. I had the privilege of praying with Donnie multiple times. Truthfully he was not truly "free" a day in his life since adolescence, but he is now. Truly free! Eternally and forever. His last affirmation to me within hours of his death, referring to Jesus: "He is my all in all." Praise be to God. We often say "when they made xxxx they broke the mold." Well - there was only ONE Don Garrison. Truly one of a kind. I was a privileged and honored to call him my friend. See you soon, friend. See you soon! Karen also sends her love and farewell to this dear brother. Blessings.

Dr. Kevin M. Ulmet - October 15, 2023 at 05:09 PM

KU

Should have signed Kevin M. Ulmet. Sorry!

Kevin Ulmet - October 15, 2023 at 05:10 PM

PA

Thank you pastor Ulmet for all you did for my brother , you have know idea how much it means to us, God bless you. Pat

pat - March 08, 2024 at 09:13 PM

CW

“ *I met Don when working for Batesville Casket as a sales consultant. He was always so kind to spare some time to visit with me. Loved his spirit and generosity as a funeral director.*

Charlotte Williams

Charlotte Williams - October 15, 2023 at 04:37 PM

“ I’d like to share one of my precious “Donnie Garrison” memories. I lost my brother, Tim, unexpectedly and his loss was very hard on me. I took grieving classes at church for an extended period to deal with the grief and guilt I felt at the time of Tim’s passing. The loss and guilt I still carry with me today, but I’ve been coping. Tim called me during his hour of need, but I ignored the call because I was dealing with my own personal emergency at the time. My water heater ruptured and flooded my garage taking a lot of goods with it. I was in the middle of repairs when the Spirit moved upon me to call “Tim”, but still I ignored the calls to reach out. My father had come to help me replace the water heater and I told myself, Sunday, after church I’ll go to Tim’s and help. I never got that opportunity. Tim passed late Saturday evening, January 17, 2009.

I was grief stricken and wanted to go be with Tim. I didn’t want to leave the house, go to the funeral, or anything. However, Donnie approached me in a way only Donnie could do and asked me to play the trumpet at Tim’s funeral. Oh, the thought of that! How could that be possible when I couldn’t even keep it together? I told Donnie even breathing was hard to do, less anything else. He told me to bring the trumpet to the funeral, and if I could, play it. During the funeral service I was looking for a sign from God I could survive this overwhelming grief and guilt. Then it occurred to me, if I could find the courage to play for the service within myself, God would protect me and see me through. I would know that God was standing by me in the worst of times. I did.

Thanks to Donnie’s encouragement, compassion, and gentle consulting I had an opportunity to grow in Christ. I made an eternal memory I cherish to this day. Instead of remembering a bitter funeral and the loss of a dear brother, I remember the day an angel sat on my trumpet bell as I played, and it was Christ alone standing with me, supporting me, and giving me strength for the day. Thank you, Donnie, for your wisdom, gentle spirit, and the special way you had with people. Your gifts to others were a God given gift. It made you so special, and the reason you were so loved. Our hurt is deep, and we are grieving today, but we are standing on the promises of God for we know we will see you again. Love, Steve.

Stephen W. Smith - October 13, 2023 at 03:10 PM

PA

Thank you dear cousin for this, I just looked to see what had been written on behalf of my little brother. He was loved and he did have a special gift with people . I miss him so much, your first girl cousin. ❤️

pat - March 08, 2024 at 09:13 PM

JR

“ I had the pleasure of working with Don at the funeral home for a few years... Don was so professional, caring and treated all services as if it was one of his family members... we had great talks and laughs... I learned a lot from Don and he will never be forgotten..

Jeneene Redmond - October 12, 2023 at 04:11 PM

LW

“ Some of the best conversations of my life were with Donnie in Trevecca’s cafeteria. He was such a great listener, and he loved people. Over the years, I watched him care for grieving families. He was such a blessing to so many people.

Lena Hegi Welch - October 11, 2023 at 09:16 AM

CM

“ Don was a true friend in every sense of the word, a confidant, an encourager, a mentor in funeral service, a teacher, someone to laugh with and someone who would speak the truth to you whether you wanted to hear it or not. I enjoyed working with him and I loved him. He showed me in so many ways that he loved me too. I will miss him. He was so wonderful with the families we served and relied on me to help him with much of the paperwork involved. We were an amazing team. Fly high my brother I'll always love you!

Cindi Milam - October 10, 2023 at 03:36 PM

CB

“ *Don was not only a valued friend, but he performed a service for our family when my husband died that no one else would have (or could have) performed. We are forever grateful. Rest in peace friend.*

Carla Hendershot Bivens - October 10, 2023 at 03:36 PM

EW

“ *Don(catfish)Garrison was a good man with a warm heart. He always had time to talk and genuinely cared about people. God bless his memory.*

*Eddie White
Class of 82*

eddie white - October 10, 2023 at 03:03 PM

FW

“ *Frances Webb lit a candle in memory of Donald "Donnie" Lee Garrison*



Frances webb - October 09, 2023 at 07:45 PM