



Donald Robert Halstead

September 10, 1942 - May 26, 2020

On May 26, 2020, the Honorable Donald Robert Halstead, 77, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, peacefully passed away at his home in Elk Rapids surrounded by his family. Born on September 10, 1942, he grew up in Detroit, the only child of the late Loyola (Chesney) Halstead. He graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School in 1960 and the University of Detroit with a B.S. in Accounting in 1964. Judge Halstead then went on to receive his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit in 1967. After clerking for the United States District Court from 1967-1968, he relocated to Paw Paw where he opened his own law office. In addition to his private practice, he was also Special Assistant Prosecutor (Family Law Division) from 1974-1980. In 1980, he was elected Probate Court Judge for the County of Kalamazoo, serving as Chief Judge from 1988-1993. Judge Halstead said working with children and helping turn their lives around was the most rewarding part of his career. After thirty-two years of faithful service to the people of Kalamazoo County, he retired from the court on July 15, 2013. Throughout his life, he enjoyed serving on many committees and associations including the Knights of Columbus, Families in Action of Kalamazoo, and the Board of Directors for the Community Dispute Resolution Center. His love for Michigan and the Detroit Tigers was second only to his great devotion to his faith and family. He loved camping, fishing, boating (an avid hydroplane enthusiast), golfing, and big bonfires on the beaches of Lake Michigan with his wife and children. He and his wife, Andrea, were lucky enough to retire to Northern Michigan where he continued to serve the community as a member of the Board of Directors of Area Agency on Aging for Northwest Michigan. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Elk Rapids. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Andrea (Farkas) Halstead; his children, Amie (Lawrence) Grayson, Donald Halstead, Jr., Andrew (Sarah) Halstead, and Michael (Mergil) Halstead; his grandchildren, Michael, Gabrielle, Genevieve, Madeleine, Josephine, Isabelle and Sean Grayson, Tyler, Ellie and Jadon Halstead, Michael, Mariana and Micaela Halstead whose sibling is due to be born in August.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home from 4-6pm with a rosary prayed at 6pm. A Funeral Mass will take place at 11am on Friday, June 12, 2020 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Fr. Robert J. Zuchowski and Fr. Ben Rexroat will officiate. Burial will take place at the Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Attn: MAO, 4597 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, Online giving at sistersofmary.org; Knights of Columbus #12294, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 143 Charles Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Kindly share thoughts and memories with the Halstead family at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

Cemetery

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI, 49684

Events

JUN 11 Visitation for Family and Friends 04:00PM - 06:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN 11 Rosary 06:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN 12 Mass of Christian Burial 11:00AM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Elk Rapids, MI, US

Comments



“ Andrea, we just learned of the passing of Don. Although we had not had any contact since we left Kalamazoo in 1984 we remember you well and have always respected you and Don and your family. I enjoyed coaching Andrew and Michael in Soccer and basketball. We are sorry for your loss and pray that you will continue to be blessed in your life. Love, Joe & Kathy Goodell

Joe Goodell - December 24, 2020 at 02:35 AM



“ Dear Andrea,
I just found out about Don's passing away. Don and I grew up on Hickory Street in Detroit together. We shared a lot of good times racing your hydroplanes together with his cousin John on the Detroit River and up north at Secord Lake during his family vacations.
God bless you and your beloved children and grandchildren.

Paul "Gene" Zimmerman

Paul Zimmerman - November 29, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ Dear Andrea and Family,
You are in our thoughts and prayers. We remember the early years together as neighbors when the children were very young. Seems like yesterday when Don Jr. was mowing our lawn. We are praying that God provides you all the peace and strength you will need during this difficult time. May your memory be eternal.
Love, Sharon and Rick Mahoney

Sharon and Rick Mahoney - June 16, 2020 at 11:22 AM



“ Andrea, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I met Don 40 years ago when he was first campaigning for Probate Judge. I really got to know and respect Don and your family in the following years. I really appreciated his commitment to the Kalamazoo High School Mock Trial program over the many years and the trip he made with us to Atlanta to serve as a judge for the national competition. Don was one of the most respected judges and community supporters in Kalamazoo and more importantly, he served as a wonderful role model for being a family man and a Catholic. I will miss seeing Don, especially during Lent noon masses at St. A.

Jay Yelton - June 15, 2020 at 12:21 PM



“ My beloved Andrea and Amie. Donny, Andrew, and Michael....My heart is full of love and memories of this wonderful husband and father...so many kind thoughts of this fine man who shed his bright light on all of us...Don taught us how to live our lives with courage, honor, strength, and dignity.

each day, every day.

May the blessings of Our Loving God hold you in His arms as I know he is hugging Don...knowing Don, he is probably sharing a good joke w God over a chilled margarita !!!

Rest well, Judge Halstead !!! Thanks for all the memories !!! Kathryn Walls Chan and Family

Kathryn Chan - June 11, 2020 at 05:04 PM



“ Andrea and Family,
Phil and I send you our thoughts and prayers at this sad and difficult time. May loving memories of Don and your life together bring you peace and comfort.
Phil and Joan Carey

Joan Carey - June 08, 2020 at 08:48 AM



“ I got to know Don Halstead while he and I were colleagues on the bench. There was an era when we worked together closely as Chief Judges. I enjoyed working with Don. Andrea, Nancy and I send our condolences to you and your family. Rick Johnson

Nancy Johnson - June 07, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ I would like to describe the Mr. Halstead that I knew for the past 37 years from the perspective of his oldest son, Donny's, best friend. I knew the Halstead family very well. Donny and I met when we were both 12. We went to Catholic school together, played football together, mowed lawns together, lived in the same neighborhood as kids, and were roommates when we were both young single men. I was fortunate to spend a lot of time at the Halstead's home. Mr. Halstead had a great sense of humor and made me feel welcome in their home. It was obvious to me that he loved to spend time with his family, and the tight bonds that he and Mrs. Halstead created within their family was something that I admired. I have often thought of Mr. Halstead while raising my kids. Mr. Halstead was a role model for me, the type of loving father and husband that I aspire to be. He was a great man with integrity and a deep love for his family and God. We will all miss him and I am grateful for the time I spent with Mr. Halstead and his wonderful family and the positive impact that he had on my life as a role model as a father and family patriarch. God bless the Halstead family. My family sends our love. - Bob, Kristen, Adam, Daisy, and Lindy Graving

Bob Graving - June 07, 2020 at 02:01 AM



“ Andrea, I want to share with you my sincere sympathy and a promise of prayer for Don's eternal repose and for the comfort and consolation of all of you who will especially feel the loss of Don from your daily lives.

I know that the faith you and Don have shared for these many years will sustain you--along with the attentions of your children and your loving friends.

Personally, I'm grateful to recall the visits you and Don made to St. Joseph's for morning Mass in the last months before you moved North. It was good to see you then. We believe that the bonds of affection that God has knitted among us in this life do not unravel with death. I believe we will surely enjoy one another's company again in the heaven that God has destined for us.

Peace to you and your beloved children and grandchildren.

Fr. Mike Hazard

Msgr. Michael Hazard - June 06, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ Andrea, so sorry to hear of Don's death. It was so nice to meet you and Don (during the purchase of a file cabinet) and share memories of experiences and people we knew in common in Kalamazoo, many years past.

Jan Bachman

Jsnn Bachman - June 03, 2020 at 09:26 PM



“ Sending my thoughts and prayers to the Halstead family. I knew The Judge from Paw Paw and our friendship continued through his Career as Judge of the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Court. I patrolled Oshtemo Township during my career with the Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Office assigned to Oshtemo Township. Every time I saw Don I stopped to visit. I considered Don as my second father. RIP Judge, my condolences to The Halstead family and friends.

Bill Daines - June 03, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ So sorry, Andrea, to learn of Don's death. AS you know, we had a lot of contact during your courtship by Don. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the children and their families.

William C Buhl - June 02, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“ Dear Andrea:

I'm so sorry to hear of your husband's passing. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

A friend from St. Augustine's in Kalamazoo,

Jeanette Rybinsky

Jeanette Rybinsky - June 02, 2020 at 03:14 PM