



William Donald "Don" Tomlinson

August 26, 1949 - July 9, 2021

William Donald "Don" Tomlinson died on July 9, 2021 at the age of 71. Don was diagnosed with a stage 4 brain tumor on May 2, 2021, and spent the 8 weeks before his death in palliative care at Givens Estates Health Center. Don was born on August 26, 1949 in Thomasville, GA. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Tomlinson and Carolyn Van Hollingsworth Tomlinson, of Decatur, GA, and his wife Jane Reynolds Tomlinson, originally of Arabi, GA. He is survived by his sister, as well as his two sons and their families, including three grandchildren.

Don was a class of '71 graduate (Journalism) and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity member at the University of Georgia. One of his great passions in life was the beautiful region of Western North Carolina, the natural scenery and history the area has to offer, and working to share it with others. After spending some years after college in Atlanta, Tifton, and Newnan, GA, Don and his family moved to Asheville, NC in 1984.

Once settled, Don would spend most of his 37 years as an Asheville resident working in the tourism industry, giving him a platform to welcome those from around the world to this place which he loved so much. He held positions such as director of Sales and Marketing at the former Hilton Asheville Resort, General Manager at the Quality Inn Biltmore, and Resort Manager/Director of Security at Grove Park Inn. In his retirement years, Don was able to work part time at the Biltmore Estate, Biltmore Forest Country Club, as well as three years working part time at Flat Rock Playhouse, fostering a lifelong passion for theater.

Don and his wife, Jane, began Cakes by Jane in 1998 and the business is still in operation today.

Don will be remembered for his welcoming personality, charisma, and never ending optimism. He rarely met a stranger and had a knack for making every person he met feel at ease.

The family will hold a small, private memorial in remembrance of Don. In lieu of flowers please send memorial donations to Flat Rock Playhouse, 2661 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Comments



“ Don was a fraternity brother of mine while attending UGA 69-73. I always thought he was a kind and thoughtful person during those college days. When I received an email about his condition, I called him in early June to say hello and to tell him that my wife and I were praying for him. Don and I then began to talk about college day stories. He was able to describe them in great detail and he was joyous during that talk. After 30 minutes I could tell he was getting tired. I told him that my wife and I would drop by to see him in Asheville in early August for our NC vacation. With pure joy, he began to describe places we could visit in Asheville and was so upbeat. I was so hoping we could have spent that time in person. Yet, I am grateful that I was able to have that conversation with Don that day in June, for it allowed me to peek into the heart of a brother who cared about so many others. He was a fitting example for us all to emulate, as each of us continue to travel down our own road of life.

We will miss you Don.
Mark "Grits" Bodenheim
Perge!

Mark Bodenheim - July 23, 2021 at 03:28 PM



“ Don was the ultimate gentleman and the easiest person to talk with. In times of distress , Don had the unique gift of calm and sincerity. We had boys the same age and experiences we worked through together with them He was such an understanding friend and parent. No-one could possible measure his creativity . I will always remember the gigantic toy soldiers at the entrance of the Biltmore Hotel/motel he installed for the holidays. His love of humanity showed in everything he accomplished. Friends and family will miss his humor and his presence. I always had and will continue to have the utmost respect for Don and I am so sorry I did not get to tell him these things before he passed.
Martha Wight

Martha Wight - July 19, 2021 at 08:15 AM



“ I remember Don from my University of Georgia days. He always had a smile on his face and was a fun person to be around. He actually caught the garter at my first wedding. Here's to Don, tell your mom I said hi from a former Tucker High student who stills remembers her well.

Caroline Clabaugh - July 18, 2021 at 01:16 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Donald "Don" Tomlinson.



July 16, 2021 at 08:46 PM