



Ray D. McDonald, Jr.

June 24, 1941 - August 27, 2023

Ray D. McDonald, Jr. passed away on August 27, 2023 at the age of 82 in Tallahassee, Florida where he was a lifelong native. He gained the family nickname “Dusty” the day he was born, on June 24, 1941 to parents Ethel and Ray D. McDonald, Sr. He attended Leon High School prior to joining the United States Navy. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, he joined the United States Honor Guard Reserves. He then began his career with the United States Postal Service. With over 30 years of service with USPS, he retired as the manager of the Leon station and was even hired back on as a consultant for another 5 years.

Earlier in life, Ray briefly pursued real estate and brokering. However brief, it instilled a lifelong passion for property and real estate researching. From his career at USPS and this interest in property, Ray also loved studying maps or finding the best shortcut or route to any given destination in his native city. He is remembered for his impressive memory of addresses and locations from his tenure at USPS and naturally, Ray was an avid history buff and his favorite past time was writing poems. He also loved leisurely car rides or driving in any capacity. It is no surprise that Ray also loved traveling, especially with the love of his life and companion of over 20 years: Anita Grace McDaniel. Ray and Anita were inseparable partners and she remained by his side as until his last breath.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Paresh Patel for all of his time and expertise treating Ray for many, many years. They became close friends and Dr. Patel went above and beyond to call and check in with Ray and Anita often.

Ray leaves behind not only Anita, but his children Michelle McDonald Higdon (Ralph) and Brian Shea McDonald; siblings Patsy Stokes, Joy Brady, Nina Diamond and Thomas R. "Buddy" McDonald (Judy) as well as 8 grandchildren, Dusty McDonald, Sidney McDonald, Matthew McDonald, Briana McDonald, Ramsey Higdon Jones, Andrew Higdon, Justin Higdon and Dillon McDaniel, 3 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family members whom he loved dearly. He was preceded in passing by his father Ray D. McDonald, Sr., mother Ethel Newton McAlpin and his step-father, Thomas McAlpin.

A graveside service will be held at Tallahassee Memory Gardens on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tallahassee Memory Gardens
4037 North Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray D. McDonald, Jr..*



September 08, 2023 at 02:20 PM



“ *Joanne Bellflower purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ray D. McDonald, Jr..*



Joanne Bellflower - September 02, 2023 at 04:33 PM



“ *daddy i know your looking down upon us because, i know you accepted christ as your savior, i will see you and uncle everret soon, shea*

brian shea mcdonald - September 02, 2023 at 01:06 PM



“ *RIP , you will surely be missed. - Nell and Walter Sumner*

nell sumner - September 01, 2023 at 05:03 PM



“ *papa you will be greatly missed. I love you!*

Briana shea McDonald - August 31, 2023 at 08:16 AM

NS

"RIP , you will surely be missed " - Nell and Walter Sumner

nell sumner - September 01, 2023 at 05:01 PM

SB

Ray McDonald was a gentle, caring, man and had the patience of a saint. He had to be to put up with my stubbornness. Ray aka "DUSTY" was the best Father and Popa anyone could have asked for. He treated me with kindness and support. Ray can never be replaced. Ray was there when my children were born, He held them before I did. I will always remember how big he smiled when he held them for the first time. The bond has stayed strong throughout their lives. My heart goes out to my children Dusty and Sidney McDonald, they loved their Popa dearly. My condolences go out to Ms. Anita McDaniel, Michelle McDonald Higdon, Nell Sumner, Walter Sumner, Matthew McDonald, and Brianna McDonald. Popa Ray I will miss you and all your goofball jokes. I will always have that memory of You, Shea and Me, when went to New Orleans, in 1993. R.I.P. Popa Ray love, Sonya McDonald Brown.

Sonya McDonald Brown - September 03, 2023 at 03:08 PM