



Michael D. O'Donnell

August 8, 1956 - June 4, 2018

Exeter – Michael D. O'Donnell, 61, of Exeter, died at his home on Monday, June 4, 2018 surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

He was born in Dorchester, MA on August 8, 1956, the son of Joan (Carney) O'Donnell of Hampton and the late Edward J. O'Donnell Jr.

Michael graduated from Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, VA. He then attended his father's alma mater school, Merrimack College and graduated with a B.S in Psychology in 1978. Mike later went on to receive his M.S. Mental Health Counseling with a specialty in Eating Disorders from New England College in 2001.

Upon college graduation, he operated an Irish import store in Manchester, NH. He then started his career as a mental health counselor working with children, teens and adults and took immense pride in caring for them. After many years, he left the mental health field and operated his own farm stand, where he was well known as "The Corn King". He had a genuine love for people, and left a heartfelt impact on everyone he met.

His spirit is difficult to put into words, but all who knew him felt it. There were three things he loved most, his music, food and above all his family. He was a

naturally gifted drummer and performed with many different bands of different genres throughout his life, most notably the Jabbers. Mike knew where to find the best food, in possibly the worst places. His children and grandchildren were the pride and joy of his life. The legacy of his spirit, passion for music and zest for life will live on through them. His loss will be felt far and wide.

In addition to his mother, he leaves behind his beloved wife of 35 years Eileen (Knowlton) O'Donnell of Exeter; children, son, Edward O'Donnell III and his wife, Kyra O'Donnell of Exeter, NH; daughter, Kathleen Trowell and her husband, Ian Trowell, of North Hampton, Michael O'Donnell and Cara Hoey of Winthrop, MA and Mary O'Donnell and boyfriend Rhett Bluni of Exeter, NH; sister, Joan Booth and her husband Jeffrey Booth of Newfields, NH and sister, Mary O'Donnell and partner, Brenda Wiswell, of West Barnstead, NH; grandchildren, Quintin and Emery Trowell and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visiting hours will be from 4 - 7 PM Friday, June 8, 2018 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A prayer service will be held at 2 PM Saturday, June 9, 2018 at the funeral home. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camp Sunshine, 35 Acadia Road, Casco, ME 04015.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Prayer Service

JUN 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

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811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
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Tribute Wall

PM

“ Back in the early 2000's, Mike worked at a facility where I was staying as a teen going through tough times. He was very nice and encouraging to me, and he was my first real introduction to authentic punk music. At the time I never made the GG connection, only knew him from Jabbers. He once brought in his drum set for all of us to hear him play songs and mess around on the kit. Because of that, I played drums in high school. Mike was seriously a wonderful and awesome guy and I'm gutted to find out that he passed away. Haven't talked to him since late 2008 or so but he never left my thoughts. Thanks for everything Mike

Peter Munroe - April 07 at 08:34 PM

GL

“ I'm devastated to find this obituary. For a year and a half 1989-1991. I used to play in a trio with Mike and his cousin James Carney, who I also had the misery of discovering his death years later also. My name is Gary Longstreet, I played rhythm guitar with them at the Carney's old Drelik(sp?) Farmhouse in Exeter, NH. We used to love trading stories about gg Allin. He was much older than us, but so nurturing and kind to me. The complete opposite of what someone would think if you told them he was the drummer for the Jabbers. I miss those days and I miss you Mike...

Gary Longstreet - February 17, 2025 at 01:45 PM

PM

Just found out a moment ago. I was only 12 when I met him, and he treated me like an old friend. He was awesome

Peter Munroe - April 07 at 08:35 PM



“ *Michael D. O'Donnell*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *I will miss my friend Michael from now until forever. - Pam Alexander*



Pamela J Alexander - June 09, 2018 at 09:20 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 08, 2018 at 06:31 PM



“ *Sean Doyle lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Sean Doyle - June 08, 2018 at 05:32 PM

CM

“ Mike was always kind and friendly to me from when we first met at the wedding,. So many memories, his incredible drumming, vegetables, the studio, Foxwoods, festivals, and more. He was so young at heart!. Love, Christine

Christine Maguire - June 08, 2018 at 03:15 PM

MD

“ Eileen, Teddy, Katie, Michael and Mary,
Please accept our deepest condolences for your loss. We will miss Mike. We'll always remember him as a vibrant soul, a loving father & husband and a great neighbor. Can't count how many times he'd be at our doorstep with fresh produce from his farm stand. Generosity, love of music and zest for life were the hallmarks of his character, and we trust those qualities will continue to shine thru each of you as a celebration and lasting legacy of his abundant life. RIP, Mike.
--The Donovan family--Mark, Kate, Olivia, Elise, Maeve (& Tucker)

Mark Donovan - June 08, 2018 at 12:34 PM

MD

“ Eileen, Teddy, Katie, Mike and Mary,
Please accept our deepest condolences for your loss. We will miss Mike. We'll always remember him as a vibrant soul, a loving father & husband and a great neighbor. Can't count how many times he'd be at our doorstep with fresh produce from his farm stand. Generosity, love of music and zest for life were the hallmarks of his character, and we trust those qualities will continue to shine thru each of you as a celebration and lasting legacy of his abundant life. RIP, Mike.
The Donovan family--Mark, Kate, Olivia, Elise, Maeve (& Tucker)

Mark Donovan - June 08, 2018 at 12:33 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 08, 2018 at 08:09 AM



“ *Eileen and Family, I am so sorry for your loss.*
Jeff Hapgood

Jeff Hapgood - June 08, 2018 at 06:39 AM



I read this obituary. What a fine full life! Working in Mental Health, growing food and music... all things my family is so involved in .. the Jabbers??.. I seem to remember my son Zach, talking about the Jabbers.. my loving condolences to the family. Suzanne Uncles

suzanne uncles - June 08, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ *Dorian Shannon lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Dorian Shannon - June 08, 2018 at 06:18 AM

BD

“ Thoughts are with you, Rest easy my friend,



Brad Dubin - June 08, 2018 at 04:31 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.



June 07, 2018 at 10:12 PM

ML

“ MaryEllen Linnehan lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell



MaryEllen Linnehan - June 07, 2018 at 08:29 PM

JB

“ JOAN BOOTH lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell



JOAN BOOTH - June 07, 2018 at 05:12 PM



“ *Bill Miskowitz lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Bill Miskowitz - June 07, 2018 at 03:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 07, 2018 at 02:42 PM



“ *NutraClick purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



NutraClick - June 07, 2018 at 02:38 PM



“ *David Sarson lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



David Sarson - June 07, 2018 at 01:13 PM

TP

“ *Tobi Plumenbohm lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Tobi Plumenbohm - June 07, 2018 at 12:58 PM

DW

Joan , Ma and family .. So sorry for your loss ..Diane W

diane Wake - June 11, 2018 at 06:45 PM

BA

“ *Bret Ackerman lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Bret Ackerman - June 07, 2018 at 12:18 PM

BA

*RIP Michael,
.Many Fond Memories Over The Years, Hanging With You And James While You Guys Jammed And Countless Other Times Spent Just Hanging Out! Your Heart Is Just A Beatbox For The Sound Of Your Life.Next To The Word Of God, The Noble Art Of Music Is The Greatest Treasure In The World, Just Like You Michael. Rest Easy My Friend. You Will Be Greatly Missed.*

Bret Ackerman - June 07, 2018 at 12:29 PM

DN

“ *Diane & Dan Nersesian lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Diane & Dan Nersesian - June 07, 2018 at 12:07 PM

SL

“ *Sarah Linnehan lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Sarah Linnehan - June 07, 2018 at 11:42 AM

S.

“ *If the thunder seems more brutal from now on, someone new is sitting on the drum seat at the celestial kit.*

S.C. - June 07, 2018 at 09:22 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 07, 2018 at 08:42 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.



June 06, 2018 at 10:05 PM



“ Quintin And Emery Trowell lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell



quintin and emery trowell - June 06, 2018 at 08:50 PM



“ Tina Cote lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell



Tina Cote - June 06, 2018 at 08:42 PM



“ Tasha lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell



tasha - June 06, 2018 at 08:30 PM

KG

“ *Kenny Girard lit a candle in memory of Michael D. O'Donnell*



Kenny Girard - June 06, 2018 at 08:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 06, 2018 at 07:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rob Basso - June 06, 2018 at 06:12 PM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 06, 2018 at 03:30 PM

TF

“ *The Bonanno Family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



The Bonanno Family - June 06, 2018 at 03:17 PM

JB

“ *I love you my sweet brother and I miss you more and more each day*

joan booth - June 06, 2018 at 01:54 PM

TB

He loves you very much mamma. Just know he's thinking of you everyday and is thankful to call you his sister.

tasha booth - June 08, 2018 at 06:17 AM

AJ

“ *We did have us a time or two, did we not?*

Alan Jabber - June 06, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael D. O'Donnell.*



June 05, 2018 at 07:02 PM