



Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys

May 5, 1960 - July 29, 2020

Donald “Don” Edmund Gawrys, 60, of Columbia, died Wednesday, July 29, 2020. Born May 5, 1960, in Columbia, he was the son of the late Edmund Gawrys and Elsie Marie LeGrand Gawrys.

Don grew up in Columbia and graduated from Spring Valley High School. While in high school, he lettered in football and played in multiple state championship games. Don coached youth athletics and loved teaching children about sports and the value of teamwork. He was employed as an Ace Manager for Michaels Arts and Crafts for more than 10 years. Don had the unique opportunity of traveling around the country with his job. His primary duties were to mentor store managers and employees, as well as develop the stores performance. Don was a member of Northeast Presbyterian Church in Columbia.

Survivors include his wife, Marybeth Gawrys; sons, Robert Edmund Gawrys of Greenville, SC and Michael Edmund Gawrys (Charise) of Columbia; granddaughter, Mikiyah “HAPPY” Gawrys; brother, Ronnie LeGrand (Wanda); sister, Karen Frazier; and nieces, Becky, Veronica, and Jennifer. Don is also survived by his great nieces and nephews, as well as a multitude of extended family, friends, and business associates.

The funeral service for Don will be private. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family. A livestream will be available 4 o'clock Sunday, August 2nd by visiting <https://www.shivesfuneralhome.com/current-webcast/>.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands, 500 Gracern Rd, Columbia, SC 29210.

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - August 02, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ MaryBeth, Robbie and Michael, words don't do justice to fill the pain of your loss. My heart breaks with yours. I pray that you will remember all the good things about Don. that you will continue his legacy of love and laughter through life.

Kelly - August 02, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ Thomas Padgett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



Thomas Padgett - September 14, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ I worked with Don for such a short time... he and I once had a conversation about how he was not the easiest person to like. He told me he didn't mean to be, and in the end he and I did find our way to "like". I will miss him. I will always look to your parking space to see if you are in. I'm sorry for his loss not only for our store, but for his family which I'm sure more than "liked" him. He always spoke of you all with love in his heart.

Allison Gonzales - August 02, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ Timothy And Donna Capps lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



Timothy and Donna Capps - August 02, 2020 at 06:10 PM



“ Don you are missed. You had such a big heart and just loved everyone and would do anything for anyone. There will be one less bright light in the world without you. Go Rest In Peace!

Sharon Reynolds - August 02, 2020 at 05:14 PM



“ Karolyn Busch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



Karolyn Busch - August 02, 2020 at 03:37 PM



“ Sandy Humphries lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



Sandy Humphries - August 02, 2020 at 03:31 PM



“ I only met Mr. Gawry once, but I have known their son Robby for many years. My prayers will be you this afternoon and in the days following.

Catherine C Sepko - August 02, 2020 at 12:16 PM



“ MaryBeth, Robbie, & Michael

We were so sorry to hear of Don's passing. We pray that you will find comfort in time and peace that only comes through our Heavenly Father.

Swayze has been in Critical Care for the past 17 days fighting for his life against this evil Corona virus. So, I only know a portion of what you must be feeling at this time.

You have my prayers for strength in the midst of your grief.

Sincerely,

Debra LeGrand

Debra LeGrand - August 01, 2020 at 04:10 PM



“ Marybeth, Robbie, and Michael,

I am so sorry to hear about “Coach Don”. That is how I will always remember him. He was my first coach and taught me so much about the game of football at such an early age. I remember how happy he was when he found out me, Buck, Craig, and a few others were being held back a year because of our weight in football. Needless to say, we went undefeated and weren't scored on all season (WZLD Steelers). I remember how at eased I felt when I showed up for B team football tryouts and there was Coach Don. I knew everything was going to be ok. So many good memories and I will cherish those going forward. He was a good people. God bless you in the coming days, weeks, months and years as you go forward.

Robbie Hardy - August 01, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ Sad to see this news and thoughts and prayers to the family. I had the pleasure many years ago to "assist" Don in coaching my son Andrew in 10 year old football. His enjoyment of that and his commitment to the boys was special. Rest in peace Don.

David Ward - August 01, 2020 at 07:11 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys.



July 31, 2020 at 10:11 PM



“ Denise Dawson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



denise dawson - July 31, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ Don was a great manager, friend, and mentor the 5 years I worked alongside him at Micheals. He was the heart of Michael's 1036 in Sumter and will truly be missed by all whose worked with him!

denise dawson - July 31, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Don was always a great guy. He is gone way too soon. You have our heartfelt sympathy. May God bless and keep you always. Tommy, Joyce, and Justin Mellette

Tommy and Joyce Mellette - July 31, 2020 at 09:00 PM



“ Tommy And Joyce Mellette lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



Tommy and Joyce Mellette - July 31, 2020 at 08:57 PM



“ I worked for Don in Camden. He was quite the character to work with and always made us laugh when things were crazy at work. I really missed him when he left. I was so glad to see him when shopping in Columbia. Praying for your family during this time of loss and that you will feel the loving arms of our Lord comforting you.

Dena Bryant Mobley - July 31, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys.



July 31, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys.



July 31, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys.



July 31, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys.



July 31, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



John - July 31, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ I worked with Don in Dallas last year and he was such a wonderful person. He taught me some things at my store that I would never forget. He was so knowledgeable and he loved his family. He talked about his granddaughter all the time. And the man loved his Pepsi. Every time I drink Pepsi I think of him. You will be missed Don.

Victoria Young - July 31, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ Don, the lessons he taught all of us, the memories we all shared, are ones I'll never forget. He was the absolute sweetest man and knew how to put a smile on your face even if it was right after rough news. We will never forget you, rest easy.



Alyssa Cardona - July 31, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ I am honored to have known and worked with Don..his positive spirit and kindness towards others was a blessing for our entire organization
My deepest condolences to your family

Lisa Anderson - July 30, 2020 at 10:56 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys.



July 30, 2020 at 10:51 PM



“ Marybeth & boys.... we are sharing your loss, and want you to know we are so sad to hear this news! Our LeGrand family will miss Don, too! May God give you peace and comfort throughout this time and your wonderful memories always bring you joy! Sending love and hugs to all!

Keith & Gala
Brandon & Kelli, Brantson & Karli
Kara, Alan & Eli



Keith & Gala LeGrand - July 30, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ Angela Chandler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Edmund Gawrys



Angela Chandler - July 30, 2020 at 07:51 PM