



Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald

September 10, 1954 - October 2, 2020

Adeline Louise "Nina" Donohue-McDonald of Alexandria, VA died, quite honestly, unexpectedly, on Friday, October 2nd surrounded by her family. Born in Holyoke, MA, she was the daughter of Michael and Adeline (O'Neil) Donohue. A graduate of Holyoke Catholic High and Salve Regina University, Nina began her career as her Alma Mater's Director of Student Activities. In that role she perfected the art of party planning, establishing that food is not an afterthought and there are 165 cups of beer in a ½ keg. For this, and her staunch support in the importance of education for women, she was honored in 2011 with the Annual Alumni Achievement Award. From there she moved to Boston's North End. She discovered the neighborhood past time of "leaning out" her 4th floor window during the summer weekly saints parades. She began working for SMH Bar Review, quickly rising to serve as Vice President of Operations. On a trip to Bermuda, Nina met her first husband David Walpole from England. The Irish/English relationship improved greatly because of their strong bond. His sudden death gave her the impetus to move to Washington, DC where she joined both her sisters. Soon thereafter she met Tom McDonald at his 40th birthday party at The Four Seasons. Within weeks, and after a whirlwind romance, the deal was sealed at Holyoke's Nick's Nest Hotdog Stand. (With encouragement from niece Bligh who secretly wanted to be a flower girl and wear the Nordstrom red shoes!) They were married less than a year later in May of 1993. The arrival of her sons, Declan and Griffin both surprised and delighted her (most of the time!) Her desire for motherhood was cemented, and she 'retired' from the corporate world to focus on the boys and their constantly growing circle of friends. Nina & Tom's home was the spot to find a listening ear, unlimited love, and most importantly, a full refrigerator. Nina was recognized as a second-mother, firm guiding light, and teacher of the rules of civility to all within her circle. Nina shared her love of large parties by opening their home to the neighborhood cul-de-sac at the Cinco de Mayo, 4th of July, and the "I just dropped my kids off for the First Day of School" parties that brought parents of all ages together. She was also well known for her sage and occasionally unwarranted advice, including "never complain about your spouse because it makes your judgement look bad" or "don't let the truth get in the way of a good story." Nina was exceptional at keeping us all on track and she often imparted advice without us ever realizing. Finally, Nina was known more for not

actually cooking, but for “assembling” delicious 5-ingredient dinners. Her table was always impeccably set and she instilled within us the knowledge that serving dishes would be cleared first upon the completion of the meal and of course, one never stacks the dishes. The McDonald family would like to thank Nina’s Oncologist, Dr. Dipti Patel-Donnelly, along with the entire Virginia Cancer Specialists’ Team, and the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Inova Fairfax Hospital for their excellent care and kindness over the past 13 years. She is survived by her loving husband, Tom, two “better-than-average” sons, Declan of Arlington and Griffin of Alexandria; her siblings and their spouses:, Michael and Nancy, Owen, Carey and Charlie, Quentin and Debbie, and Maria and Craig and brother-in-law Kevin; “her favorite nieces and nephews”, dozens of cousins and so many close friends who to name them all the newspaper would run out of ink. The Jefferson Funeral Chapel at 5755 Castlewellan Drive in Alexandria, Virginia is in charge of the funeral arrangements. An Irish Wake will be held on Friday, October 9th from 3-5 and 7-9PM; the funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:30 AM. In light of the recent worldwide occurrences dealing with the outbreak of COVID-19, the family would like to have Nina’s Funeral Service reserved for immediate family. The service will be livestreamed at jefferesonfuneralchapel.com for those who can’t attend. Burial will be in the Agawam Massachusetts Veteran’s Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to her nephew Will Burke’s favorite charity willpowerfoundation.org. Nina’s final request is that you vote for Joe Biden on November 3, 2020. She, RBG and Helen Reddy will be watching!

Events

OCT **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

9

Jefferson Funeral Chapel

5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA, US, 22315

OCT **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

9

Jefferson Funeral Chapel

5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA, US, 22315

OCT **Service** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

10

Jefferson Funeral Chapel

5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA, US, 22315

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - October 07, 2020 at 09:39 AM



“ Beautiful service! Hugs and love to the McDonalds and Donahue families!

Arline Kerrigan - October 10, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ Beautiful comments and music! Nina made this a wonderful world - with lots of friends!
Love to all the Donohue-McDonald clan.

Mary - October 10, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ Lovely service for a special lady Rest in peace dear Nina

Mary Donohue O Sullivan - October 10, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“

Mary Donohue O Sullivan - October 10, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ The service was beautiful. Nina would have loved it. Thank you for offering this option so I could join all of you.

Sheila Wallace - October 10, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ Beautiful service , she would be so proud of her two boys ,
May her gentle soul rest in peace ,

Ger Padden, Belmullet, - October 10, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ Thank you for the gift of being able to be with you from our homes. From Rhode Island with love, Jeannie

Jean Anderson - October 10, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ Glad we were able to attend virtually. So sorry for your loss.

Ray & Eileen Walczak
South Hadley, MA

Ray Walczak - October 10, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ What a joyous service for cousin Nina.

While I feel deep sadness at this loss, that certainly isn't an emotion anyone would ever associate with Nina.

The memories that come rushing over me recall most of all her pluck and spirit and generosity.

Most of those memories are from long ago, but listening this morning to her fine sons Griffin

and Declan and other family members, it was so clear that her unique grace only intensified over the years.

We all feel blessed to have known and felt that grace. I know its bright glow continues, and will always—a source of warmth and comfort to friends and family alike.

thomas - October 10, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ Dear Tom, Declan and Griffin,

It was our privilege to be with you at Nina's Welcoming Service...

Indeed, we were rejoicing with all our Saints in Heaven (whom we love so dearly) who were welcoming her into their ranks.

We were also struck with admiration at what Nina and Tom have accomplished as we listened to Declan's and Griffin's eulogies of their Mother ! As we had already heard, they are remarkable, handsome young men!

These next years are going to be so difficult for you and we do pray that our dear, loving Lord will give you the strength you need to carry on...

With great affection,

Adelene Louise Quigley, MaryBligh Morrison,
Adelene Louise Perkins and Anne Egan

Adelene Cowhig Quigley - October 12, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ Tom,Declan,Griffin and family:

I have so many fond memories of Nina. It was a privilege to be her friend. Her memory will live on as we all know that she had a great influence on so many people. RIP dear Nina. Love Maureen & Mike Burke

Maureen Burke - October 12, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ What a beautiful service. Bligh’s incredible voice. Pastor Chuck’s presiding. Declan and Griffin’s poise. Tears intermixed with lots of laughter. Nina would have loved it. Hate that COVID prevented a normal celebration of a life so well lived. But, grateful to have still been able to participate. Nina was a great role model and made us all want to be better. What a legacy she has left behind. I feel so privileged to be able to call her my friend. Love and condolences to all she has left behind. She will be missed by many.

Beth - October 11, 2020 at 09:12 PM



“ Mary Donohue O Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald



Mary Donohue O Sullivan - October 10, 2020 at 12:10 PM



“ To all of Nina,s family,
Truly loved your mom for all the reasons you stated at her funeral &.so glad I could be a witness to this day. Last year when my mom passed she was the one that suggested a chime to hang outside so when we heard it we think of my mom & all of the Salve girls. I was so glad that I got to zoom with Nina this summer. I will always have fond memories of Nina & our famous road trip to Florida after graduation. The service was beautiful & I wish u my love and condolences. Love, Joanie from Florida

Joan Kilcullen - October 10, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ Breege Donoghue lit a candle in memory of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald



Breege Donoghue - October 10, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ A candle from the Mayo cousins

Breege - October 10, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 10, 2020 at 10:21 AM



“ Dear family,
I had the pleasure to work with Nina for 10 years. Not only was she a capable and dedicated employee, she emphasized the human element in our tax practice. It is a measure of her impact that people asked about her long after she retired. She always brought news from the neighborhood or parish. We swapped family stories, and made sure each other had heard about notable community, local, state and national developments. We discussed many issues, didn't always agree, but proposed possible solutions. Nina was an awesome, inspirational lady. May we carry on her legacy! Cecilia Kuhn

Cecilia Kuhn - October 09, 2020 at 07:33 PM



“ Gloria and Peter Lloyd purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



Gloria and Peter Lloyd - October 09, 2020 at 06:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Family Slideshow



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - October 09, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ Absolutely beautiful and heartwarming. Thank you for sharing.

Sheila Wallace - October 09, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ A beautiful tribute.

Arline Kerrigan - October 10, 2020 at 08:46 AM



“ An amazing tribute to an amazing woman!

Jim Lettenberger - October 10, 2020 at 09:39 AM



“ More Team Lion Heart pics....



Jerry Smith - October 09, 2020 at 01:34 PM



“ Team Lion Heart!



kevin mcdonald - October 09, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 09, 2020 at 03:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 06:38 PM



“ Ernie and the Shumway Clan purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



Ernie and the Shumway Clan - October 08, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ Sheila Lyons Wallace (Salve Gang) purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



Sheila Lyons Wallace (Salve Gang) - October 08, 2020 at 04:53 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ I am stunned!! I have so many wonderful memories of Nina, particularly the North End days and working on the Finnegan Mayoral Campaign. We recently reconnected over Mary Manning's Irish Bread! God bless you Nina and your family.

Maureen Manning Coady

Maureen Manning Coady - October 08, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 12:39 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ Nina did every day what we should all endeavor to do: make other people's live better. Frankly, she was pretty damn good at it. She brightened every second that we spent around her, despite simultaneous fighting a battle that would knock me out in the first round.

Nina, you made this world a better place and not many of us can honestly say that about ourselves.

Tom, thank you so so much for bringing Nina into our family, Declan & Griffin, thank you for sharing your Mom with all of us.

Sending big hugs and our love to all the family and friends (there are many) who were lucky to have had Nina in their lives. We wish we could be there with you.

Love you, Nina. See you again on the other side.

- The Hemingways (Blaise, Elisa, Rhett, and Rose)

Blaise Hemingway - October 08, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 08, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ Oh Nina how I will miss you. What a spectacular human. My memory of you will live long and with great respect and heart felt happiness. The world was a better place with you in it. And for the record, RBG would have bowed to Nina's wit and wisdom. God Bless

Connie Bowling - October 07, 2020 at 10:22 PM



“ The metropolis purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



The metropolis - October 07, 2020 at 07:44 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



October 07, 2020 at 07:01 PM



“ Brian Kim purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Adeline "Nina" Donohue-McDonald.



Brian Kim - October 07, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ Nina was one of the kindest, most generous, and funny people that I have known. I will miss her dearly, as she is one of my heroes - Mary D.

Mary - October 07, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mary - October 07, 2020 at 03:30 PM