



Donald B. Leach, Jr.

September 16, 1958 - July 20, 2015

Donald Benjamin Leach, Jr. (Age 56)

Donald B. Leach, Jr. was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on September 16, 1958 to parents Vivian D. Leach and the late Donald B. Leach, CDR USN (Ret.). He was the eldest of three children, with siblings Douglas and Mary Heather.

Donald graduated from Fort Hunt High School in Alexandria, VA, in 1976. While at Fort Hunt, he was on the track team and he played clarinet in the orchestra and the Virginia All-State Band. In 1981, he graduated from Georgia Tech with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering. He then began a career with IBM where he quickly found success in Virginia, Maryland, and Florida. After working at IBM for over 15 years, Donald worked at e-commerce company Commerce One, started his own business Delta Resources, and later was a manager at Home Depot.

Donald married Catherine E. Gensior in 1984. They had two daughters, Allison M. Leach (b. 1987) and Caroline E. Leach (b. 1989). They spent almost ten years in Florida where Donald was an active member of the community. He was president of the North Florida chapter of the American Red Cross and was also involved with the Tallahassee Junior Museum, Leadership Tallahassee, and local schools. They later moved to Glen Allen,

VA.

Throughout his life, Donald was always happiest on the water. A natural sailor, he learned to sail at a young age and shared many memorable sailing trips with his father, siblings, and friends. He later shared his love of sailing with his daughters.

Another one of Donald's favorite pastimes was music. He played clarinet in high school band and then played the saxophone in his rock band, Breeezin. His daughter Allison followed in his footsteps by also playing the clarinet. On Saturdays in the fall, Donald could often be found at Scott Stadium at the University of Virginia to watch Allison perform with the Cavalier Marching Band. He shared a strong bond with his daughter Caroline. They enjoyed watching films together, cooking creative meals, and discussing interests such as technology, astronomy, philosophy, and storytelling. They had the same sense of humor, bonded over their love of comedy, and enjoyed laughing together.

Family and friends knew Donald as a kind and loving person with a warm heart. His charisma and quick wit always put others at ease. He made it a point to learn about the interests and passions of those he cared about. He cared deeply for his family and friends, who miss him tremendously.

Donald passed away peacefully on Monday, July 20, 2015 at age 56. He is survived by his loving daughters, Allison M. and Caroline E. Leach; parents Vivian D. and the late Donald B. Leach, CDR USN (Ret.); his brother Douglas and sister Mary Heather; former spouse Catherine E. Leach; and many other extended family members.

Relatives and friends may gather at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr. Alexandria, VA on Thursday, July 30, 2015 from 4 to 6 PM.

Online condolences and fond memories of Donald may be offered to the family in the guestbook below.

Tribute Wall



“ Donald B. Leach, Jr.

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ I met Don in the summer of 1975, just before our senior year at Fort Hunt. The Fort Hunt Band was an amazing, and tight-knit group. I was a newcomer to the saxophone section (which had just lost two phenomenal players to graduation). Don - who played sax in the marching band - took me under his wing and made sure that I felt welcome in the FHHS band. He introduced me to Jack Kerns, Ray Damm and others, kicking off what was a great senior year. Don also signed me up for the FHHS orchestra so that I would not miss the spring trip to Bermuda -- another amazing adventure. As others have said, Don had a great sense of humor, was a great prankster, very, very witty, and an important friend for this newcomer in 1975. Don and another guy Mark _____ started a rock band that fall, and we played one sock hop at FHHS. The name of the band? Moonman and the Lunar Landing Party. Another of my favorite memories was when Don picked me up one afternoon in the summer of '75 to visit Jack Kerns who just had his wisdom teeth removed. Don's dad had restricted Don's driving privileges to 'school and back,' and his dad was monitoring the odometer. So, Don being Don, he drove to my house in reverse, and then on to Jack's house -- in reverse. And the Saturday night trips to Georgetown . . .

August 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I grew up constantly hearing stories about Donald. He was loved very much. My grandmother talked about him all the time, and my dad constantly told me fond memories of him. I spent some time with his daughters as a kid and they were memories i still keep. Although, I was very young when I was around him, his presence was unforgettable. Especially because he was made out to be "super cool" in my eyes as a boy. With this outlook of him given to me I always saw him as a role model figure when he was around me. I wish I could have gotten to know him better but I will always remember the times I spent in his presence. To my family that is dealing with this, my condolences are sent with extreme love and respect. Harrison Williams

July 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Don and I worked together at IBM and got to be good friends over the years. He was a good man, with a quick wit and easy smile. We all got to know Don as a loving father and husband, son and brother, and hard-working professional. We had some great times while his family lived in Tallahassee, our families vacationed together in Panama City and New Smyrna Beach and we missed them when they moved back to VA. Fair winds and following seas, Don Leach. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

July 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ It was my/our pleasure to know and work with Don at IBM in Tallahassee, Florida. He was a fine man, gentle soul and a team player. The Tallahassee IBM Family, will miss Don and remember him for his sweet smile and willingness to help others. Please accept my/our sincere condolences.

July 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Don and I met in the Fort Hunt High School band and became best friends, instantly it seems. The stories from high school alone could fill up pages. He was the best friend anyone could ask for. He enriched my life so much with music, sports, wit, fun, and always a smile. Not to mention hooking me on surfing without even knowing it at the time. I bet he's practicing Charlie Parker solos right now, getting ready to take the boat out. He will be fondly remembered by many, loved by his friends, and always in our thoughts. Hoist up the Sloop John B, Don.

July 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Don and I worked together for quite a few years at Home Depot in Short Pump. Don was one of my favorite associates. He had such a great outlook and was always a pleasure to be around. His calm demeanor brought a lot of stability to our leadership team. I loved his sense of humor and his integrity- a very genuine person! I will miss him.

July 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I remember Don at Fort Hunt. He always had a smile on his face and was willing to jump in and help with any class activity. He was a really great guy and I am so sorry for your loss.

July 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I played clarinet with Don at Fort Hunt High School, and remember him fondly as a wonderful guy with a sharp and quick wit. I am so sorry for your loss

July 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM