



## Donald William Alfred

November 27, 1951 - December 3, 2025

Donald William Alfred age 74 passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday December 3, 2025 doing what he loved most, helping others in need. Don was the son of Edwin and Helen Alfred and was born in Manistee November 27, 1951. He was the Brother of Brenda, Prescilla, and Laura.

Donald was a prominent and successful residential builder in the Manistee area for many years. His dedication to his family, faith, and work were the things that were dearest to his heart. His love for deep conversation always kept moments interesting. No topic was off limits and opposing viewpoints were always welcome, but never met with any animus.

He was a loving father and spouse; a devoted husband to Karen Alfred until her passing December 13, 2009. During his marriage with Karen, he raised his son Donald Jr., and selflessly assumed the role of father to 3 children following the death of his sister Laura - Erik Scott, Sarah Holzschu, and Brittany Young.

Don eventually remarried on May 24, 2013 to Kathy Gnatkowski and again became a loving and devoted husband and father to Kathy, her children, and grandchildren - Matt Gnatkowski, Sophia Gnatkowski, Lauren Bauman, Mark Bauman, Reid Bauman, and Grant Bauman. He was a very loving father and grandfather of an overall mixed and blended family.

Don will be greatly missed by his wife Kathy; his children Don Alfred and his wife Stephanie, Sarah Holchu, Brittany Young, Erik Scott and his wife Tasha, Lauren Bauman and her husband Mark, Matt Gnatkowski and his wife Sophia; grandchildren Cameron, Brooklyn, Morgan, Ella, Logan, Bentley, Cristian, Anna, Claire, Grant, and Reid; great-grandson Jameson; his sisters Brenda Budesky and husband Robert, Prescilla Kellogg and and husband Timothy.

Along with his wife Karen, Don was also preceded in death by parents Edwin and Helen Alfred; and his sister Laura.

Those who knew Don intimately knew of his strong faith in his God and his love for the Catholic Church and Community. He will truly be missed and was never without a good story. May he rest in peace and bask in the glory of Heaven.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Don at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 13 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee. Visitation with his family will start at 10:00 am until time of Mass at the church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
249 Sixth Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

## Funeral Mass

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
249 Sixth Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ I met Don only once when he showed up at our house to talk to my mom about some work he was doing for her. His presence was gentle and endearing, with such a funny and positive attitude. I feel greatly honored to have met Don. My mom and I will think of him fondly when we walk along Lake Michigan.

Rachel Buckholz - January 02 at 05:36 PM

PC

“ Pat and Clark Comstock purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Donald William Alfred.



Pat and Clark Comstock - December 11, 2025 at 09:59 PM

DK

“ Debbie and Bob Kaminski purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald William Alfred.



Debbie and Bob Kaminski - December 11, 2025 at 07:18 PM

DK

“ Debbie and Bob Kaminski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald William Alfred.

Debbie and Bob Kaminski - December 11, 2025 at 07:18 PM

KM

“ Don & Stephanie - our prayers and thoughts are with you at this sad time. My husband Don would visit with your dad when he was in the neighborhood doing projects around your house in Manistee. He will be missed by all who knew him. Don & Kay Meister

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**Kay Meister** - December 09, 2025 at 11:10 AM

KB

“ Kristen, Jobi, Heather, Joe and Betsy purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Donald William Alfred.



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**Kristen, Jobi, Heather, Joe and Betsy** - December 09, 2025 at 07:31 AM

KB

“ Kristen, Jobi, Heather, Joe and Betsy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald William Alfred.

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**Kristen, Jobi, Heather, Joe and Betsy** - December 09, 2025 at 07:31 AM

WD

“ Don reached out to me only last week on Facebook Because he thought I was sick, which I wasn't, but that just goes to show you his concern for his friends. Don was our first drummer than manager of our band Foc'sle. We took our first road trip to Florida with Don, Rick Thatcher and myself and almost ended up in jail if it wasn't for Don's quick thinking.! About a year later, Don and his new Matador and I came out west to Salt Lake City where we explored the city together for the first time. We also connected in Texas, when he lived in Galveston, and I lived in Dallas, so we had some great memories over the years. RIP Spud.

Wayne Davis - December 08, 2025 at 05:00 PM

KI

“ Ken Church/Churchs Insulation purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald William Alfred.



Ken Church/Churchs Insulation - December 08, 2025 at 01:51 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Donald William Alfred.



December 08, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald William Alfred.*



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December 08, 2025 at 09:11 AM



“ *So sorry to hear Don Alfred' hap passed I offer my condolences on behalf of his family. Don and I were good friends for many years and both worked in construction. Don will be missed by his family and many friend. Rest in Peace Don*

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**Rick (DUKE) Willoughby** - December 08, 2025 at 02:31 AM



“ *So many great conversations and such amazing generosity from “Big Don” over the years. He always welcomed me and my family and made us feel like we were part of his own family. I feel so fortunate to have known him.*  
*- Brian Graham*

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**Brian Graham** - December 07, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ *- Sunup and Ali purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald William Alfred.*



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**- Sunup and Ali** - December 05, 2025 at 08:28 PM

RJ

“ *Sorry to hear of the passing of a good old friend. So many memories from the past. My condolences to his family.*  
*Rick Jach*

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**Rick Jach** - December 05, 2025 at 07:11 PM