



Donald Peter Colizzi

March 20, 1938 - June 25, 2023

Donald Peter Colizzi, 85, of Charlotte, MI, a patriotic story-teller, proud Italian and beloved husband, father, and grandfather, and friend, died peacefully on Sunday, June 25, 2023, surrounded by his adoring family. Don was born March 20, 1938, in Charlotte, the son of Pietro and Caterina (Capodiferro) Colizzi. In his younger years, he helped in the family business, Liberty Sweets, alongside his parents and siblings. Following graduation from Charlotte High School in 1956, he proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA, where he attained the rank of Corporal. He remained on inactive reserve duty until 1962. Don attended Lansing Business University where he earned a diploma in accounting and Ferris Institute where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Commerce. While at Ferris, he served as President of Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity, Delta Rho Chapter, was recognized as Who's Who Among Students, and received the Annual Award from the Big Rapids Chamber of Commerce. After graduation, Don went to work for his then future father-in-law at Sackner Products in Grand Rapids. After moving back to Charlotte, he became the Director of Admissions for Lansing Business University, where he remained for 10 years and was awarded the Idea of the Year Award and Idea Exchange Award. In 1973, Don was selected as one of 75 students for the first class at Cooley Law School, where he attended for a year. In 1979, Don received a call from Davenport College where he would begin his most admired career journey. He was instrumental in starting the first branch campus of Davenport College and

rose through the ranks of Associate Dean, Dean of the Lansing Campus, Vice President and, in 2003, retired as Senior Vice President, overseeing the Great Lakes operations. While at Davenport, Don started the Michigan National Guard Davenport Training Partnership and also received the Distinguished Alumni Award. One of his greatest achievements upon retirement was receiving the Distinguished Service Medal from the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Active in all things that aided in community, education and youth enrichment, Don was a member of Rotary Club of Lansing (1984-2023), served on the Boards for Junior Achievement, Lansing Safety Council, and Michigan Freedom Foundation (25 years), was President of Michigan Freedom Academy, President of the Charlotte High School Alumni Association, served as a mentor on the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, member of the "Has Beens" group, and was recognized by Charlotte Chamber of Commerce for his leadership in creating and dedicating a monument honoring Charlotte's Medal of Honor recipient, Navy Ensign Francis C. Flaherty. Don also served as a consultant to the East Lansing Rotary Club for their project honoring Medal of Honor recipient, Marine Lieutenant Sherrod Skinner. Don's patriotism remained a central part of his life. He was always willing to share historical stories and make public presentations to service clubs and military organizations (more than 30), throughout the tri-county area. Don was highly involved in bringing the remains of Francis Flaherty home to rest at Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte in 2021, and organized the Medal of Honor ceremony for Flaherty at that time. Many would call Don a Medal of Honor scholar for his in depth knowledge.

His true loves were the Charlotte community and hot dogs! In addition, Don loved to research, label and date everything, was creative, a visionary, articulate and never far from his reach was a gadget of some sort, a remote, pen, note card, and yellow highlighter. He enjoyed nature, daily walks, hot dog roasts, traveling, playing the harmonica, as well as history, his family pets (goats and dogs), and taste testing baked goods. He loved hosting parties,

organizing events and building indestructible woodwork masterpieces. As a father, Don was proud of his daughters throughout their years in 4-H showing horses and forming lasting friendships with the 4-H families. He enjoyed making people laugh and had the larger than life "Colizzi Smile". Don appreciated life, valued family and cherished friends and was an adviser to many. He loved his grandchildren, was proud of their unique traits and talents, and they sure loved their Papa the same.

Don is survived by his wife of 57 years, Elaine M. (Tisch) Colizzi; daughters, Nikki Colizzi-Corr of Westport, CT, Monique T.K. Colizzi of Charlotte, Angelique T.M. Colizzi-McCrumb (Richard L. McCrumb, Jr.) of Eaton Rapids; grandchildren, Curtis G.P. Colizzi, Alexander F.D. Corr, Ashley N. Corr, Richard Owenn McCrumb and Donald Brogan McCrumb; nephews, Tony Colizzi, Greg (Jeannine) Colizzi, and Lenny Stango; nieces, Kristina Colizzi-Windom (Robert) and Neysa Colizzi; great-nephews and nieces, John Colizzi, Joseph Colizzi, Max Windom, Morgan Windom, and Arabella Colizzi. He is also survived by his loving and supportive brother John (Joy) Colizzi of Northville, MI; brother-in-law, Dan Stango of Fort Wayne, IN; many cousins; and extended family in Italy, France and the U.S., as well as special friends who he considered family, Pat Mahan, Neal Christiansen and Lacey (Brumm) Johnson. He was predeceased by his father Pietro in 1979; sister, Anna Marie Colizzi Stango in 1990; mother, Caterina (Kate) in 1995; foster sister, Lucille LaPointe DeWitt in 2015; brother, Sam Colizzi in 2016; and sister-in-law, Marlene Colizzi in 2018.

Thank you to Sparrow Eaton Hospital, Sparrow Home Care, Mary Free Bed Rehab, Sparrow Main, Compass Health, Eaton Community Palliative Care and Hospice of Lansing for your unending compassion and care for this special and courageous man.

Friends are encouraged to support Don's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation will be from 2:00 - 4:00 and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at Pray

Funeral Home, Charlotte. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 7, 2023 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte with Rev. Fr. Dwight Ezop officiating. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Don's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Memorial contributions can be made to St. Mary School, Eaton County Fair Horse Program (checks made payable to Eaton County Agricultural Society) and Eaton Community Palliative Care. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JUL 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial

JUL 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church
807 St. Mary Boulevard
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



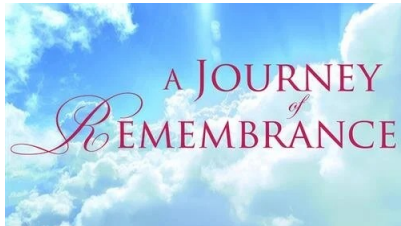
“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Donald Peter Colizzi



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 07, 2023 at 10:16 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Peter Colizzi



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 03, 2023 at 08:25 PM

FG

What a heartfelt tribute that was to Don. The family will always be in all my memories of what a wonderful time it is knowing all of you...Peace my friends...xxox

FRANCES J. GRIEST - July 05, 2023 at 08:27 AM

DB

“ Sadly, this is the first I learned of Don's passing and it brought back the many memories we had working together to bring Davenport College and the Michigan Army National Guard into a great partnership. I appreciated the time he devoted to this program and developing a number of friendships in the Guard hierarchy. My fondest memories were the times we shared driving to Detroit to watch the Red Wing games. Although the years are passing, my condolences to the family he certainly loved very much.

David Britten - January 23 at 08:45 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 06, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 05, 2023 at 07:28 PM

JG

“ Monique and Family~
Thinking of you during this difficult time, so sorry for your loss.

Jamie George - July 05, 2023 at 02:44 PM

MC

Thank you Jamie. Memories of both our dads will forever be cherished.

Monique T Colizzi - July 07, 2023 at 07:49 PM

LF

“ *Love The Holzhei, Berger and Joss Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



Love The Holzhei, Berger and Joss Family - July 05, 2023 at 11:13 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



July 05, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



July 05, 2023 at 09:16 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 05, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 05, 2023 at 07:38 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 04, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Peter Colizzi.

July 04, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ 52 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 03, 2023 at 08:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 02, 2023 at 03:30 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



July 01, 2023 at 09:19 PM

GC

“ Elaine, Nikki, Monique and Angel, We are so sorry, this is a great loss to each of you and Don's extended family and to the greater Charlotte Community. He did so much for so many. Always a great smile and wit.

Gene and Ruth Conley

GENE P CONLEY - June 30, 2023 at 12:09 PM

MC

Thank you Conleys for your love and support for many years. Your kind words will be carried close in our hearts.

Monique T Colizzi - July 07, 2023 at 07:52 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



June 29, 2023 at 09:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



June 29, 2023 at 02:40 PM

BM

“ Don was a delightful Davenport University colleague for many years. He chaired the DU System Marketing/Admissions Committee for a number of years, and always welcomed input and suggestions. My sympathies go to Don’s family.
Barbara Mieras

Barbara Mieras - June 29, 2023 at 01:58 PM

MC

Dr. Mieras, thank you for your kind words. My dad always held you in high regard. His life was devoted to Davenport!

Monique T Colizzi - June 29, 2023 at 08:47 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



June 29, 2023 at 11:17 AM

DW

“ Monique, Nikki and Angel.....So very sorry to hear of your father’s passing. Although I never had the opportunity to meet him, he must have been quite the guy to have raised 3 beautiful women. Prayers to you and your family but mostly, lots of HUGS ... 🤗

Deb Wantor - June 28, 2023 at 09:15 PM

MC

Deb thank you so much. You are a kind soul, who we love very much. We appreciate your prayers.

Monique T Colizzi - June 29, 2023 at 08:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



June 28, 2023 at 11:26 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Mr. Colizzi's passing. May he rest in peace. My sincerest condolences go out to Monique, Curtis, Angel and the entire Colizzi family.*



Mike Krause - June 28, 2023 at 09:42 AM



Thank you Mike. We appreciate your thoughts.

Monique T Colizzi - June 28, 2023 at 11:00 AM



“ *from patrick and Dorian in France purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



from patrick and Dorian in France - June 28, 2023 at 04:22 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



June 27, 2023 at 09:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



June 27, 2023 at 07:28 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



June 27, 2023 at 05:11 PM



“ *I was so saddened to hear about Don...he always make us laugh and feel so special when we visited Michigan....he has a special wife and special girls...they were so lucky to have him in their lives...I wish you all peace..
love, Frances J. Griest and I am sure Dr. Ducky is looking after him..*

FRANCES J. GRIEST - June 27, 2023 at 04:35 PM

MC

So many great memories and laughter when thinking of the Dr. and Mrs. Ducky. I'm glad they're together again. Love you.

Monique T Colizzi - June 28, 2023 at 11:04 AM

PH

“ 2 files added to the album CHS Class of 56



Peter Hansen - June 27, 2023 at 04:21 PM

FG

“ *FRANCES J. GRIEST purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



FRANCES J. GRIEST - June 27, 2023 at 03:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Peter Colizzi.

June 27, 2023 at 03:53 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.*



June 27, 2023 at 03:53 PM

GB

“ 1 file added to the album Donnie



Gary Beebe - June 27, 2023 at 01:38 PM

GB

This photo was from the rear steps of Hawthorn school. I am near the back peeking out in front of John Borgman. Don is near the front on the end. John Forte is behind Don. Don was a friend to all. We had much fun while in the library. Mrs. lauch always had to keep a eye on us to “tone it down”. Somehow the class of “56” stole Don from us! Gary Beebe

Gary Beebe - June 27, 2023 at 06:23 PM

GT

“ *Elaine and Family*

We are sorry to hear of Don’s passing. I have had the privilege to know Don for many years He has never changed and will be remembered for his zest for life. We will keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Gary and Janet Tellier

Gary and Janet Tellier - June 27, 2023 at 12:37 PM

MC

Gary and Janet, thank you for the perfect words. He enjoyed life and appreciated his friends.

Monique T Colizzi - June 29, 2023 at 08:50 PM

PH

“ 1 file added to the album CHS Class of 56



Peter Hansen - June 27, 2023 at 09:56 AM

PH

*Back Row: Pete Hansen, Terry McLane, Chuck Wood, Daryl Baker, Carl Field, Russ Thornton, Don Colizzi, Pat Mahan, Ron Converse, Dan Mikesell
Front Row: JoAnn Perry-Zemke, Janet Wright-Bryner, Bev Wright-Hadley, Linda DePue-Austin, Joann Gobel-Culbertson, Donna Spore-Mikesell*

Peter Hansen - June 27, 2023 at 01:58 PM

PH

This is a picture of those of the CHS56 class that gathered for the 65th reunion. Don enjoyed those many meetings with not only our class, but through his involvement in the all class reunions, keeping track of Charlotte school members from many years. He will be missed greatly.

Peter Hansen - June 30, 2023 at 11:15 AM

MN

“ *I'm so saddened to hear of Don passing. He was a good guy and will be missed. I always enjoyed his humor and never ending smile. My prayers are with all the family.
Peggy Nichols*

Margaret Anne Nichols - June 27, 2023 at 09:43 AM

MC

Thank you Peggy. My dad really admired you. You share the same positive energy. We appreciate your prayers.

Monique T Colizzi - June 29, 2023 at 08:51 PM

CW

“ Chad & Carol Walker lit a candle in memory of Donald Peter Colizzi



Chad & Carol Walker - June 27, 2023 at 09:12 AM

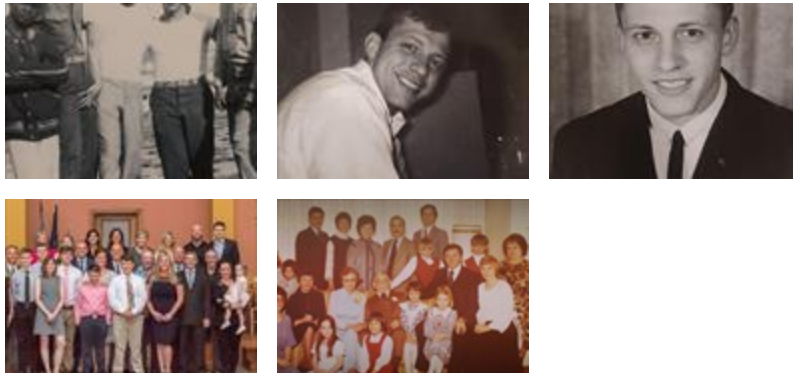
MC

Thank you my friends... you are kind.

Monique T Colizzi - June 29, 2023 at 08:51 PM

MC

“ 10 files added to the album Donnie



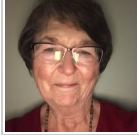
Monique Colizzi - June 26, 2023 at 11:19 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Donald Peter Colizzi.



June 26, 2023 at 08:26 PM



“ TD, and all my girls and families, Carrie notified me yesterday, I am so very sorry for your loss. Diane Hudson

Diane Hudson - June 26, 2023 at 07:02 PM

MC

Thank you Momma. He was such an influential man in the lives of so many. A true loss to this community.

Monique Colizzi - June 26, 2023 at 11:16 PM

SC

Dear Colizzi family: So very, very sad to read of Don's passing. I shall remember the good times with all of the Stewart Rd. gatherings .and our parents. "Riposa in pace",my dear "amici". Susan Callender

Susan Callender - July 01, 2023 at 07:05 PM