



Donald C. Harris

May 2, 1943 - October 20, 2017

Donald Chandler Harris, 74, of Berlin, husband of Beverly (Ahlquist) Harris, passed away Thursday (October 19, 2017) at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain after a two year battle with ALS. Born in New Britain, son of the late William and Shirley Harris, he was a former Plainville resident, moving to Berlin in 1969. A graduate of New Britain High School, Class of 1961, Don attended Brown University, received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Hartford and then received his Master's from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Don was employed for thirty five years by Ingersoll Rand's Torrington and Fafnir divisions in Material Management, retiring in 2000. His business and pleasure travels took him to all 50 states and more than 40 countries. He was a member and past congregation president of First Lutheran Church of the Reformation in New Britain; was a long time member of Shuttle Meadow Country Club; Corporator of the Hospital of Central Connecticut; Corporator of the YMCA; member and supporter of the New Britain Museum of American Art and the New Britain Industrial Museum; a 12th generation New Englander and member of the Mayflower Society; an Eagle Scout; and served as Chairman of both the Berlin Wetlands and Zoning Commissions. Donald summered on Nantucket Island for 71 years and supported many island organizations. Besides his wife Beverly, Don is survived by two sons, Todd C. Harris and his wife Cynthia of Southington, and Mark W. Harris and his wife Jennifer of Berlin; four grandchildren, Eric and Abigail Harris of Southington; and Nicole

and Jacob Harris of Berlin; and a brother, Richard M. Harris and his wife Jean of New Britain; and two nephews.

Don's family wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to all who helped us on this journey, the Hospital for Special Care-ALS Clinic, Berlin Visiting Nurses, and CT Hospice. In Don's memory, the family asks those that knew him, "..... dip a toe in an ocean, laugh at a joke, enjoy family."

At his family's request, the funeral is private. There are no calling hours.

Carlson Funeral, New Britain, is assisting with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hospital for Special Care Foundation, Inc. – ALS Clinic, 2150 Corbin Avenue New Britain, CT 06053, or to a charity of the donor's choice. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Private Funeral Service

OCT **20** (ET)

Private

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Don: Thanks to Bev I am restoring a Kinraide Coil in your memory. You are missed...
Jeff Behary, remembering our adventures in Boston...”

Jeff Behary - May 21, 2020 at 07:29 PM

PJ

“ Don had a kind welcoming smile

Patricia Johnson - November 15, 2017 at 08:48 AM

CB

“ We will always remember Don as a wonderful, positive, humorous, kind and intelligent man. We will miss seeing him around the island. He was so youthful it is hard to believe he is gone. We send all the best to Beverly his lovely and devoted wife. We will never forget all of us having cocktails with Ann McCluskey. Don had a warm and infectious smile that lit up a room. With deepest sympathy, Carl and Randi Borchert

Carl Borchert - October 27, 2017 at 07:58 PM

BL

“ To Beverly and Don's family please accept my sincerest condolences on your loss. I was privileged to work with Don for a number of years at Fafnir. He was a class act and a good man of very high standards who quietly led with professionalism and uncommon intelligence. 30 years later, I still think of him with respect and gratitude.
Bob Lawson

Bob Lawson - October 26, 2017 at 06:58 PM

SC

“ Bev,
I am so sorry to hear of Don's passing. Everyone at the Berlin Historical Society will miss him. Our hearts are with you and your family.
Sallie Caliandri

sallie caliandri - October 23, 2017 at 06:11 PM

HB

“ Beverly & Family,

At this time of my life, I think a lot about this past. I remember when you got married and brought Don into First Lutheran Church. I remember your family sitting at the front left side of church every Sunday morning. I remember watching your boys grow up. I saw a strong family unit, grounded by Don. May God Bless, Keep, and Guide you and your family through your sorrow.

Helena Berlin

Helena Berlin - October 23, 2017 at 09:36 AM

JO

“ *I was lucky to have known Don from high school throughout his career at Fafnir. A true gentleman who could be very professional and also very funny. My condolences to Bev and the Harris Family. I will keep him in my prayers.*

Jim Oldziej - October 22, 2017 at 06:08 PM

PG

“ *to; Mrs. Harris ,Mark and family,
We're sorry for your loss,
Jean, Pete "coach" Garrison and family*

peter garrison - October 22, 2017 at 08:18 AM

TF

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the entire Harris family. I'm so sorry for your loss. My mom and I were at the Cape last week visiting my brother Peter and his wife Shari. (They live in South Yarmouth) Last Friday, October 13th, we all took the high speed ferry from Hyannis out to Nantucket. It was a beautiful day and one of my fond childhood memories I shared with my family that day was when Mark, Ronny Orde and myself stayed at the family home out there. Good times were definitely had when we tore up the island on our scooters. LOL. It's just ironic that I was recently thinking of you all and the good times I spent at the Harris house, always feeling welcome! Mr.Harris (Don) will never be forgotten as his family carries out his legacy.

Sincerely, Tom and Phyllis Fecteau.

Thomas Fecteau - October 21, 2017 at 02:50 PM