



Donald Matlack

August 20, 1939 - January 22, 2021

Donald Matlack, 81, of Unionville, NC and formerly of Millville, NJ, died quietly at his home on January 22, 2021.

Don was born in Penns Grove, NJ, on August 20, 1939, the youngest of five children born to William Matlack Sr. and Eva Newton Matlack. He grew up there and, after school, he became a mechanic, eventually working at RCA Records and Wheaton Glass. On April 22, 1961, he married Catherine Fisher. After 25 years of marriage, she tragically passed on Thanksgiving in 1986. Nine years ago, due to declining health Don moved to Charlotte to be loved and cared for daily by his daughter, Tina, and her family.

Don loved many things in life, and his favorite hobby was building and flying RC airplanes. He was a proud member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, and never missed a meeting. Don was also fond of telling bad dad jokes, binge watching Star Trek, and Jim's Lunch cheeseburgers and cheese steaks. Most of all, Don appreciated his family and friends.

He is survived by his children: Donald (wife Arby) Matlack Jr of Estell Manor, NJ; Thomas (wife Diana) Matlack of Joshua, Texas; and Tina (husband Gardner) Andersen of Monroe, NC. He is further survived by three grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, and his wife, Catherine. We take comfort knowing that finally these childhood sweethearts are together once again.

Don will be taken to Gloucester, New Jersey, where he will be laid to his final place of earthly rest next to his wife. Graveside services will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 11 AM at Eglington Cemetery and Memorial Gardens, 320 Kings Hwy, Clarksboro, NJ 08020. It will held in Section 29, The Sermon on the Mound. Reverend David Robinson will be honoring the family by leading the services.

The family has given the families of Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home in Matthews, NC and the

Ashcraft Funeral Home in Penns Grove, NJ, the privilege of caring for Don and for them.

Events

FEB **Graveside Service** 11:00AM
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Eglington Cemetery And Memorial Gardens
320 Kings Hwy, Clarksboro, NJ, US, 08020

Comments



“ I will never forget Uncle Don and Aunt Cathy. Aunt Cathy was an active member and a tremendous influence and role model to us at Buckshutem United Methodist. There were a group of women that devoted their time and attention to the church and to us kids in the congregation. Their lives were a testimony to God's goodness and their faith was their legacy. Uncle Don and his model planes and he was so intelligent. I also loved when you guys would throw around the frisbee for Frenchie to catch. I also remember the cement steps leading up to your property. You all had your names written/engraved into the cement. I would also use your yard as a shortcut to Mae and Jerry's. I think that the one thing that really stands out to me is how much your parents loved and cherished each other. They made a wonderful couple and were always a united front. I hold them both dear in my heart.

Paula Davey - March 02 at 07:24 AM



“ I just want to mention. The letter below is from my brother Tom, to our Dad. I can't figure out how to edit my original post of the letter to add this forward as clarification. This is a wonderful tribute to our dad. It made us all cry and laugh. Thank you so much for writing it Tommy.

Tina Andersen - February 09 at 08:11 PM



“ We hired a babysitter one night when Eva was six. Evidently I'd forgotten to tell our sitter that dad was living with us. When he wandered into the kitchen that evening the sitter asked, "Psst Eva, Who's that?"

"That's just the guy who lives in the back room."

Now my daughter was being funny but in all honesty that's what it may have seemed like to my kids. By that time things had really wound down for my dad. He had entered a pretty quiet faze in his life. He did however still enjoy jumping out and scaring RJ. The two of them made a little game out of it. Dad always saying, "Boo Who don't scare me like that" He did enjoy binge watching his favorite shows- Volume always set to loud.

So I'm grateful my kids can be here today and hear about the other seasons of his life.

The most incredible story about my dad I never even knew. I was in my 40's when I came across a photo album with a newspaper article. When my parents were a young couple with little Donny and Tommy in tow they went to visit Nana. She shouted out. Cousin Claude, a toddler at that time, was face down in the swimming pool. He was blue. My dad performed CPR and saved Claude's life that day. Yet he never said a word about it. When I brought that article to him his eyes filled with tears. He still didn't want to talk about it. So humble.

My parents love was at the forefront of everything else. My mom was so proud to be his wife. Even after 25 yrs of marriage their PDA was still eyeroll worthy. I never saw them disagree- and watching him experience that loss- Heck, I'm even grateful for that. I know my brothers would agree that it's really taught us to appreciate our spouse even in the tough times. Because you just don't know.

When my mom died my dad said he wasn't the type of man who could be without a woman. And he DATED! He bought generously high-heeled boots and pomade up his hair. And he dated. And dated. And dated.. And then he just stopped. When I inquired with tears in his eyes he shrugged, "They're just not your mother"

But then he had his planes and oh did he love his planes and he loved to talk planes. I guess it was sort of a training for me for when my kids would eventually talk video games. I wish I had understood more. Because there are a lot of servo thingies, batteries, controllers, and very large planes in our home now.

I get my emotions from my Dad. Everytime I told him I loved him with tears in his eyes he'd say, "You too"

My dad would have given any one of us whatever we needed and if he didn't have it- he'd take out a loan for it.

One Sunday during dad's lay off our church took up a collection for a family in need. Dad gave them his last \$5 he liked to tell this story- "They needed it more than me". Later that day members of our church knocked on our door filling our home with groceries. WE were that family in need. I never knew that though. We never wanted for much.

I'm grateful for my childhood, my wonderful little neighborhood full of "Aunts and Uncles" and great memories. Most of them have now departed. I hope they're all playing cards in Heaven. But the reality is whatever they are up to is far more grand than anything any of us can possibly even imagine.



“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



Donny Matlack - February 01 at 05:48 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Tina Andersen - January 29 at 09:08 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Tina Andersen - January 29 at 09:05 PM



“ Donny and Arby purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Matlack.



Donny and Arby - January 29 at 12:05 PM



“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Tina Andersen - January 28 at 02:11 PM