



Donald Gene Caraway

June 3, 1959 - August 15, 2019

Donald Gene Caraway, 60, passed on the 15th of August 2019 in St Louis University Hospital, MO.

Pastor Don, owner of Federated Auto Parts in Murphysboro and Pastor of Camp Creek Baptist Church, and Pate Chapel was born to Charles and Marry Caraway on the third of June 1959 in Murphysboro Illinois. He was the youngest of 4 children preceded by Charlotte, Mary Lou, and William (Bill) Caraway.

Don was active in the church from a young age, attending Crab Orchard Cristian Church with his family. During his younger years he was very active in sports, primarily baseball. Don graduated from Murphysboro High School in the class of 1976, early due to outstanding performance, and married Ebbie Moore. On November 5th 1977 his first child, Justin Caraway was brought into this world in Carbondale, IL. In 1978 he was also being groomed for a professional baseball career with the Houston Astros. After hearing the call to share the gospel, however he left summer training and began learning more about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He attended seminary mail in courses until his second child Joshua Caraway was born on the 16th of September 1980 in Carbondale, IL. This radical change in his life allowed him to hear the call to serve his country. Don joined

the army in 1983 and was honorably discharged the same year due to injuries sustained in basic training. Shortly after he met his wife June Caraway, they were married on the third of July 1984 in Lufkin Texas. On December 21, 1985 he fathered Donald Caraway II and then moved back to southern IL to start a telecommunications business. After selling this business in 1987 he took a position as distribution manager for the paper in Junction City Kansas where his youngest child, Shane Caraway, was born on 9th of June.

Looking to move on to bigger and better living he then took an interview in Billings MT for the Billings Gazette. He worked there for several years raising his family and taking better positions as they became available. After a few years of hard work for the paper he answered the call to serve the Lord as the Pastor of Pyramid Baptist Church. Due to the declining health of Charlie Caraway he moved the family back to southern Illinois, where he worked as an auto parts salesman and pastored several churches. He took over ownership of Federated Auto Parts in Murphysboro IL and pastored Sato Baptist church for 15 years after Charlie passed. He served as the pastor of Camp Creek Baptist church and Pate Chapel for the remainder of his life.

Pastor Donald G Caraway, SR was a skilled, warm hearted man serving the community and investing in people his entire life. He humbly gave to individuals in need often refusing to see it return to him or receiving any recognition of his actions. His love for Christ and dedication to walking in his footsteps bound the city of Murphysboro. He dedicated his life to the mission of gathering churches together for celebration and to see more enter the kingdom of Heaven. He was a fighter, always doing what needed to be done regardless of the time and personal toll it may have taken on him. He found the most peace on the back nine of any golf course that would have him, often traveling for hours after a hard work week just to hone his skills and relax. While golf was peaceful for him he approached it with the same tenacity as he did everything else in his life. Somehow he seemed to easily pick up and hone

new skills adapting to each situation with ease. His eye for talent in others was exceptional as well. He groomed his grandson Elijah, whom he took on as a son, in golf so that someday he would get a scholarship for college. His love for Jesus was no different. Each church that he pastored saw his dedication and devotion and subsequently nearly doubled in size. His desire to help those in need often saw him decreasing sales numbers to help the many mechanics in our area get the parts they needed to put food on the table for their families. He was the first to offer both hands to pick you up if life had you down, instinctively knowing who was struggling without them saying a word. He rarely boasted of his many skills and often dodged any lime-light that was pointed his way. He somehow seemed to add hours to the day to get his work done, help out two or three other people, and still have a sermon prepared for Sunday. Though he took notes he rarely followed them often extending services to no one's complaint, unless there was a potluck waiting. He loved without limit those who would accept it, and could always make light of hard work. A true husband, father, and brother he knew when to reach out, and when to let you stumble a bit before stepping in.

Don was preceded in death by his father, Charlie and his brother William (Bill).

He is survived by his wife, June; children, Justin, Joshua, Donald, and Shane; step children, Justin Roberts and Amber Maree; grandchildren, Zane, Ashton, Solomon, Jade, Elexis, Hallie, Elijah, Anaiya, Evelyn, and Jayden.

A Celebration of Life, hosted by the family, will be on August 24 at 4pm in Pate Chapel, Murphysboro, followed by a potluck reception. Drinks, desserts, and sides are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations for medical bills and family needs can be made to Shane Caraway at Federated Auto Parts.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Gene Caraway*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *June I'm so sorry for your loss. I never met your husband, though you're in my prayers. Lyn Carter*

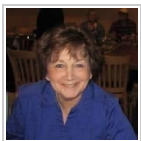
Lyn Carter - August 24, 2019 at 03:20 PM



“ *I've only known Don from my daughter passing a couple years ago. He was always a big supporter of her Foundation AmazingAmericus. He also always was our drop location for our collection for Cardinal Glennon. I will always be so grateful for him. All he has done for us. He was such a great person. I'm so glad I got to meet him.*



Jennifer - August 24, 2019 at 02:03 PM



“ *Teresa Coniglio purchased the Thoughts & Prayers for the family of Donald Gene Caraway.*



Teresa Coniglio - August 19, 2019 at 08:01 AM



“ I've only known the family since our children Florence and Shane were married but they have been kind and invited us into their home especially during some holidays when we may have spent them alone and he was a good country style cook!
I've had occasion to be in and out of the family business and Don was either deep in conversation on the phone or with a customer but did have a song to sing at times, and either laughing at a customer's remarks or making some of his own but always a pleasant visit.
You will definitely be missed by many who continue to go in and out of the store and you are there no more but knowing a couple of your sons, your humor will live on lol. May GOD bless your family and give them rest and peace as they travel this life without you here in the Mighty Name of JESUS!

Teresa Coniglio - August 19, 2019 at 07:45 AM

SB

“ Don u will be missed dearly in this community u were a great friend and mentor for so many u could never be replaced as a friend or a business man ... another great pillar of murphysboro gone.... and a parts legend ...
but
.. Now u have your wings Don fly with the angles



Shane Bramlett - August 18, 2019 at 09:19 PM

CS

“ Candy Smith lit a candle in memory of Donald Gene Caraway



Candy Smith - August 18, 2019 at 06:03 AM

JK

“ Don was one of my favorites. His guidance and wisdom have taught me so much in such a short time. He baptised me and my son which is a day that I will never forget. His friendship meant a lot to me and my family. I feel very strongly that God put Don and June in my life, and I will be forever grateful for that. Don we love you very much. My thoughts and prayers are with June and the rest of his family.



Jamie and Andy Harvey and kids - August 17, 2019 at 04:53 PM

DC

“ Donations for medical bills and family needs can be made to Shane caraway at federated auto parts in Murphysboro in leu of floral arrangements.-lil don

donald caraway - August 17, 2019 at 12:18 PM

JC

I miss my grandpa and love his so much

Jayden Caraway - December 12, 2023 at 11:15 AM