



Donald Duff

December 30, 1930 - February 28, 2013

Frankfort- Donald Duff, 82, a beloved father, grandfather, and brother passed away at Frankfort Regional Medical Center in Frankfort, KY on Thursday, February 28, 2013.

He was the son of the late Curtis Burnham and Mahalia Roberts Duff of Hyden, KY. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his cherished wife of 54 years, Janet Champlin Duff. He is survived by his son Robert B. Duff (Shelley) of Lawrenceburg, KY; daughter, Grace Cho (Matt) of Lexington, KY; granddaughter, Ashley Duff; grandson, Marcus Cho; and his sister, Jean Rezek of Hyden, KY.

Mr. Duff was born in Hyden, Kentucky on December 30, 1930. Being from the heart of the mountains of eastern Kentucky, he was very proud of his heritage. In 1952 he received a degree from Union College, where he excelled as a baseball player. In 1955 he received a law degree from the University of Kentucky, where he was in the Phi Alpha Delta fraternity.

He also served in the Counter-Intelligence Corps of the United States Army from 1955 to 1957, and upon leaving, he began to practice law in his hometown of Hyden for the next four years.

In 1962, he was appointed to the Kentucky Department of Highways, where he served as General Counsel and eventually Deputy Commissioner. Upon leaving in 1971, he began his own private practice and became a prominent attorney in the local and regional community as well as a member of the Kentucky Bar Association. In both 2011 and 2012 he was bestowed the honor

of being listed as Kentucky's Best Lawyers, and The Best Lawyers in America as nominated by and voted in by his peers.

He was a devoted member of the South Frankfort Presbyterian Church and loyal servant of The Lord. Over the course of 45 years with the church, he was a deacon, trustee, and elder until his passing on Thursday.

Among his other accomplishments, he played professional baseball in the minor leagues of eastern Kentucky. He was also an avid golfer (which he taught his son and granddaughter to play), a huge University of Kentucky fan, but most of all he was a Christian man who was admired by many, and cherished by all who knew him.

Services for Mr. Duff will be 12:00 pm Tuesday, March 4, 2013, at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, with Reverend Steven Pace officiating. Graveside services with military honors will be conducted at Frankfort Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home Monday from 2:00 until 9:00pm and Tuesday from 9:00am until the service.

Pallbearers will be Tim Hunt, John Landrum, Curt Cochran, Conway Smith, David Dean, and Kurt Lambert. There are also numerous Honorary Pallbearers.

Expressions of sympathy in his memory are suggested to South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, 224 Steele St. Frankfort, KY 40601; Amedysis Home Health Care, 77 Mack Walters Rd. Suite 101, Shelbyville, KY 40065; or American Cancer Society, 1500 College Way, Lexington, KY 40502.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Duff*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I just learned of Mr. Duff's passing. I wanted to leave a short note for his family expressing my condolences. I am an attorney in state government and had many personnel hearings with Mr. Duff. Despite his strong and competent advocacy for his client, he was always very polite and respectful to all. A rarity in these times. I enjoyed practicing with him and know he will be missed among the Frankfort legal community.*

Sheila F. Redmond - April 11, 2013 at 09:43 AM



“ *Don was a friend whom I greatly admired. My deepest condolences are offered, Don will most certainly be missed.*

Bill France - April 05, 2013 at 02:34 PM



“ *Rob and Family: We are so saddened at the loss of your father. We were not only honored to serve your Dad at Adelia's but over the many years that we owned Dixie Cream Donuts. He was not only a loyal customer, but one of the nicest people we have ever met. He was always gracious and kind. We will so miss his smiling face. God Bless you and your family.*

*With Deepest Sympathy
Gerald, Elaine, & Chris Sims*

Gerald, Elaine, & Chris Sims - March 07, 2013 at 01:21 PM

SW

“ Rob,

I was saddened to learn of your Dad's passing. He not only was one of the best lawyers, but one of the finest people I've ever met. I first met your Dad around 1983, when we played in the Daniel Boone Golf Tourney. A friend of mine and I were paired with your Dad and Judge Calvin Akers. We had such a good time and Don went out of his way to make everyone feel good (even after bad shots) about their game.

Later, in 1987 when I lost my state job, a friend recommended I visit your Dad to see if I had a case. Your father took a real interest in my situation even though I'm sure it was one of his smallest cases. I was so impressed with how he represented me against the Ky. Dept. of Education. He won the case for me and it really helped because my son was just born. I got to see 1st hand what a tremendous attorney he was. He was so intelligent and such a class gentleman.

Years after that, I looked forward to seeing your Dad and Mother on Sunday evenings @ FCC in the downstairs dining area. I also remember playing golf with you, Don, and my father. Your Dad was always nice and friendly to my family.

In closing, I want you to know I really appreciated your father's friendship and will miss him very much!

*Sincerely,
Steve Watts*

Steve Watts - March 06, 2013 at 12:27 PM

BD

“ *A very special gentleman. I only knew him professionally, but I soon found him to be very pleasant to work with even when his client was "on the other side" of the case. God Bless your family doing this time of loss.*

Bill Debord - March 05, 2013 at 09:36 AM

SB

“ Grace, Jean and Rob, Your Dad was a great person, an outstanding lawyer and a gentleman in the fullest sense of the word. He was always knowledgeable, dignified and compassionate. I practiced with and against him for a number of years as well as hearing many of his personnel board cases. I always enjoyed being in his presence. He will be truly missed, both as a friend and a member of the Bar. God bless you all. Steve Bolton

Steve Bolton - March 05, 2013 at 08:58 AM

MH

“ I'm sorry for your loss Rob. My prayers are with you and your family. If there's anything you need, you have my number.

Mark Hill - March 04, 2013 at 05:25 PM

JR

“ Rob, I know you will miss your DAD, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Jim Rice - March 04, 2013 at 04:36 PM

MM

“ I met Don in 1992 when I first came to work as an administrative Hearing Officer with state government. Through the years, I conducted all manner of hearings, and often had Don in front of me. He was an excellent lawyer, counselor, and advocate for his clients and taught me much and more about the law and how to handle matters. I was constantly impressed by what Don could do with a case that no others could. He earned my respect a hundred times over. He is the star of one of my own favorite war stories: One snowy morning Don showed up at a hearing with no client and no witness. It was a day after a huge snow storm. I give him a chance to move to continue the hearing but said he would go on. He then cross-examined the Cabinet into goo. And won! He was one of a kind. I will genuinely miss him. Thank you so much for sharing him with me.

Matthew L. Mooney - March 04, 2013 at 02:44 PM

FS

“ I treasure the memories of stories shared by my mother, Frances Duff Gross, about her time spent with her cousins, Jean and Donnie, and her Aunt Mahalia and Uncle Curt, while working in their store in Hyden, Kentucky. I pray that your good memories will ease the pain you have in the loss of your loved one.

Frances Gross Sidwell - March 04, 2013 at 11:33 AM

WE

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to all the Duff family. I only knew Donnie Duff through my mother, Frances Duff Gross, who loved this family so much and spoke of them often. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Winston & Sharon Ellison - March 04, 2013 at 10:10 AM

HP

“ Our heart goes out to you Grace, Rob, Matt and Marcus. Your Dad was a loving and great man and we are glad to have known him. We are here for you in any way you need.

Heather and Danny Purnell - March 04, 2013 at 09:14 AM

MR

“ Don will be sorely missed those who knew him and loved him, we have so many happy memories of times our families spent together. Like the summer our son spent with him and my sister and Don let him get behind the wheel of his sports car and drive. he was talking about it all summer after he came home. I hope he knew how much we loved him and how much he will be missed.

MR. & MRS. MICHAEL RADOCHAY - March 03, 2013 at 10:58 PM

DT

“ My deepest condolences for your loss. It was an honor to serve as his cardiologist.

Doctor Mark Tussey - March 03, 2013 at 04:06 PM

SD

“ anyone that knew Don will always be a better person because of that, he was a rare breed of a gentlemen. God bless him and we love him.

Shelley Duff - March 02, 2013 at 09:45 PM

MC

“ *Donnie Duff was my first love. I was 4 and he was 17. He was my brother's best friend and he lit up the room when he came in. Everyone in my family was delighted to have him at our house. He probably developed his advocacy skills by keeping my brother out of trouble. I saw him last year and he still had the same effect on everyone he saw. My whole family shares a measure of your loss.*

Martha Farmer Copeland - March 02, 2013 at 09:01 PM

JC

“ *Family: Please accept my sympathy on Don's death, as he was a wonderful individual and a genuine friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this extremely difficult period.*

James Codell - March 02, 2013 at 04:28 PM

DE

“ *Don was as fine a gentleman and lawyer as anyone could hope to meet. It was a privilege to be his adversary and his friend. Deepest sympathy to the family.*

Daniel F. Egbers - March 01, 2013 at 03:05 PM

AF

“ *Grace Jean & Rob, please accept our sincere sympathy for the loss of your Dad. Don was a wonderful man, so professional, compassionate, kind, and thoughtful. He was a great customer always with a smile on his face when he came to our restaurants.*

Amy & John Faulkenberry - March 01, 2013 at 01:35 PM

JR

“ *Rest well Mr. Duff. You will be greatly missed.*

Jennifer Ryan - March 01, 2013 at 01:34 PM