



Donald Gilbert Higham

AUG 14, 1936 - OCT 27, 2024



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Donald Gilbert Higham

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Donald Gilbert Higham, 88, died at his home in Oakboro, NC, on Sunday, October 27, 2024. He was born on August 14, 1936, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to the late Joseph and Elsie Higham. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Huneycutt Higham, of 54 years, and three children: Larisa Thompson (Dan) of Oakboro, NC, Krysta Arabudzki (Tom) of Nashua, NH, and Joseph Higham (Terri) of Lancaster, SC. Grandchildren include Josie Thompson of Raleigh, NC, Hunter Thompson of Charlotte, NC, Ella and Grace Higham of Lancaster, SC, Katja and Nikolaj Arabudzki of Nashua, NH. Step grandchildren include Andrew Thompson (Marleny) of Gmund, Germany, Jennica Lynch (Daniel) of Columbus, OH, Joshua Haller of Columbus, OH, and Jacob Haller (deceased). Lily and Liam Lynch of Columbus, OH, are great step grandchildren.

Donald loved his wife, his children and their spouses, and his grandchildren. Shortly before his death, Donald stated that the birth of his children marked one of the happiest moments of his life; his compassionate love was extended to his family throughout his life.

Donald received his B.S. degree in engineering from The University of Massachusetts in Amherst. After graduation, he specialized in quality assurance with the Federal Government for many years.

A native New Englander, the region's natural beauty: forests, lakes, sea, and ubiquitous stone walls forged his character. The character traits that defined him were frugality, flintiness, and grittiness. His grit sustained him through his later years as multiple diseases afflicted him. His courage and steadfastness inspired his family and friends. Donald's favorite place in New England was Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where his family spent many delightful summer vacations. "Going to the Cape" was a much-anticipated family event.

The Higham family is being served by Stanly Funeral Home in Locust, and a private



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celebration of life will be held later. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

Donald's legacy lives on through his love for his family and the memories that his family will forever cherish.



Tribute Wall

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BS

Bud Smith posted:

After getting past his crusty exterior, I discovered a friendship that I will cherish forever. Our friendship lasted over 20 years. I was Mr. Higham's across the street neighbor (never called him Don, too much respect for him). We had many wonderful conversations over the years at his mailbox. He was my kind of guy (old school, a man's man) and I loved his wit, sarcasm and dry sense of humor. We often solved the worlds problems in less than 10 minutes tops. He loved his family and they loved him fiercely back. I'll miss his stroll down the driveway, our talks, him petting my dog, his (always) asking about Teresa and the ever present sparkle in his eye. My sincere condolences to Mrs. Higham and to family. Old friend, thank you for your presence in my life, so very glad our path's crossed. Bud Smith

November 4 at 2:55 PM

BD

Bernice Davis posted:

Our condolence to Joyce and all the family. Don was a well liked neighbor and friend. We had many chats on my way to work and he would be out on the driveway . Loved his sense of humor. He will surely be missed. He fought a hard battle. Love and prayers to each family member. Love Bernice and Mike Davis.

October 31 at 7:01 PM

DF

David Fisher lit a candle in honor of Donald.



October 31 at 12:10 PM



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Terri Higham posted:

What I will miss and cherish most are the memories of family trips to my father-in-law's hometown of Cape Cod, MA. The expression on his face during his vacation to New Bedford, when gazing at the ocean at the beach or seeing it from the picture window of our rented beach home, will be indelibly etched in my memory. I observed the affection, yearning, and peace in his eyes through his happy tears when he was able to return home. I can vividly visualize him adorned in his hat and beloved New England Patriots jacket. He loved visiting his preferred locations and took great pride in showcasing to his family the places of his upbringing. I recall the very first time he acquainted me with the local delicacy of the quahog, and I agree it was delicious. Thank you, Don! I see him comfortably seated in his beach chair beneath the tent on the shore, eating a sandwich from the local deli and beaming at his precious grandkids as they played on the sand and splashed in the waves. I contend that those were the moments when his smiles were the biggest and most beautiful. Those moments were invaluable to share, and on my next journey to Cape Cod, I will listen for his voice in the crashing of the ocean waves against the jetties. I will watch for the grins on his children's and lovely grandchildren's faces and see his smile in theirs. I am glad that you are home now, Don. I love you, and may you rest in peace; you will always be remembered- Terri

October 31 at 6:31 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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