



Donald W. Harris Jr.

April 17, 1950 - June 4, 2019

It's hard to imagine; but Donald is home with Jesus and all the faithful who have gone before him. His time of departure to his new address was 11:54 in the presence of his wife of 23 years, Gigi, his daughter Sheila, and sister, Eileen. He is also survived by his grandson, Brendan, who is 7. Peacefully, he slipped into his Heavenly Father's arms. He can breathe heavenly air and run again.

He has left a trail of joy and smiles everywhere his foot trod at the hospital in Orlando and in West Palm Beach. All the workers, doctors and even the shuttle drivers cried and couldn't believe it. He fought against the pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema until the very end.

I could not have been the rock without knowing The Rock and all the prayers, love, support, visits, cards, donations and food.

Gratefully yours,
Gigi Harris

"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me to me on that day." 2 Timothy 4:7a

Tribute Wall

TP

“ I meet Mr. Don and Mrs. Gigi while attending Maranatha Bible Church. He would light up the room when he entered it. I remember working for him with the Christian T shirts witched I loved, then when Mrs. Gigi fell and hurt her arm he asked with a smile if I would help dust and clean my answer was yes. He and Mrs. Gigi always treated me like a daughter. Mr. Don you will truly be missed. I love you and continue to Sleep in Heaven!!!

Tanecha Pearson - July 13, 2019 at 12:03 PM

GH

Tanecha, What a sweet tribute to Don. Thank you so much.
Gigi

Gigi Harris - July 15, 2019 at 08:54 AM

EC

“ Always smiling, Don would ask how someone was doing, sincerely interested in others. A great sense of humor. In the late 1980s I worked at the Boynton Chamber of Commerce where he made deliveries. It was a happy surprise years later to see him become a member of our church, Maranatha Bible Church in Lantana. Prayers for his loving wife Gigi.
Elissa Crawford

Elissa Crawford - July 13, 2019 at 07:53 AM

GH

Elissa, Thank you so much for coming and sharing your memories of Donald.
Gigi

Gigi Harris - July 15, 2019 at 08:55 AM

“ Donald was one very much loved and special nephew. When he was just seven years old, he lost his daddy, (my precious, beloved brother), due to a tragic work-related accident. He not only shared his name, but all of the best traits of my wonderful brother lived on in Donald: His sense of humor, big smile, and his quick wit to pick up on cute little jokes, ALWAYS ready to share an encouraging word, always looking positively at every situation, hard-working, persevering, and always, always, always ready to share his love of his precious Savior. Donald cared about peoples’ souls. Every one.

One of my favorite pictures of Donald is of him standing beside his huge, FedEx truck at the airport, in his FedEx summer uniform (the one with short pants), and of course, wearing his even bigger smile. When he sent me the picture, I told him what great legs he had! 😊 He was just so happy and proud of his job driving that beautiful truck. We had great phone conversations and talked about everything from family history, to what God was teaching us lately, to who he was praying for, and sharing prayer requests. Just everything. We didn’t solve all of the world’s problems in our long conversations, but we came close. Donald was just so easy to spend time with and connect with, on a deep, heartfelt level. He gave his love easily and fully. He didn’t waste one minute, or one opportunity to praise God for what He had done in redeeming his life, or to share that joy with you.

Our family so enjoyed his, and Gigi’s visits with us in Ohio. I am especially glad he had the opportunity to revisit his childhood roots, and take Gigi around to all his favorite places in nearby Strongsville, Ohio. He was sweetly sentimental, and took great joy in sharing his best memories.

Every single time we spoke I ended our time with “I love you,” and he echoed with, “I love you too.” Until I see him in glory, and can rejoice with him for eternity, that is what I will miss most. I thank God for the precious gift of my nephew Donald, the opportunity of knowing his life from a baby to the godly man he became, and as

his Aunt, the privilege of receiving his love.

Aunt Grace and Uncle George (Rajcan)

Grace - June 20, 2019 at 08:41 PM

GH

Uncle George and Aunt Grace, Thank you so much for all your kind words. I always told him he had great legs - prettier than mine, too!

Gigi Harris - June 23, 2019 at 07:22 AM

JU

“*My cousin Donald's cheerful, 'How ya do'in Cuz?' phone calls with a parting 'love ya' will be sorely missed. You couldn't but help but be encouraged and uplifted by his infectious laugh, positive outlook and can do spirit; his love and concern so authentic, driven by his love and faith in Jesus. He was always talking about someone he met or shared the Lord with in conversation in his travels. His passion and zest for life was definitely a driving force behind everything he did and said. God blessed Donald Harris to impact my life and his life serves as a reminder to make the most of every opportunity that God gives us to share the Good News and to encourage one another. I so look forward to meeting up for a reunion with him in Heaven!*

'Love you Cuz, Mean it! '

Julia Lee Rajcan

Julia - June 18, 2019 at 02:54 PM

GI

Julia, Thank you so much for those words of love for Donald. He was so happy to have "found" you all again! Gigi

Gigi - June 19, 2019 at 08:00 AM

PS

“ Dear Gigi,

As most have mentioned, upon meeting Don we too immediately recognized his exuberant positivity about living life and how God played such an important part in this. Because of these attributes, Don enjoyed making new friends as much as a bear likes to eat bees and honey!

Don was available to offer up home-spun chuckles intertwined with deep understandings gleaned from a life of ups and downs; and, from these much wisdom flowed; and, by doing this, he lifted up all with whom he came into contact with him. Even the night before his last visit to ICU when we were privileged to share a takeout dinner with you and Don, he seemed so comfortable recounting the blessings of his life intermingled with smiles, as if he had not another care in the world.

The better we got to know Don, his wonderful wit and peaceful demeanor, the more we too learned just how fully he relied on his Lord and Savior to make all the decisions, even up and including his battle to get a lung transplant.

Thank you Don and Gigi for all the blessed memories, and we look forward to sharing many more with you Gigi,

Love Always in Christ, your friends

paul & nelda

Paul & Nelda Shafland - June 17, 2019 at 02:32 PM

GI

Dear Paul & Nelda, what a sweet tribute and we are so blessed to call you friends and to have shared that last meal with you.

Gigi - June 17, 2019 at 03:48 PM



“ *Angel Pendant & Chain was purchased for the family of Donald W. Harris Jr..*



June 15, 2019 at 12:08 PM



“ *Gigi,*

Don was a great brother and both you and Don were faithful in the early pioneer days of CBC. I thank God for his service and am grateful that he has gone home to his reward. Praying for you today in your great loss.

Pastor Carl Broggi

Carl J Broggi - June 12, 2019 at 04:05 PM



Pastor Broggi, thank you so much for your kind words. Gigi

Gigi - June 12, 2019 at 05:14 PM

A.

“ I met Donald and GiGi several years ago as a referral from a special client and friend .I first visited Donald and GiGi at there home way out in the country in Ward, SC. From the very first time we met I remembered what a happy and outgoing person he was to me .He always a had a beaming smile and welcoming spirit . .In no time I realized he was Christian as he spoke about the Lord in nearly every conversation. In fact , the first time that I heard his voicemail message it said " Have A Great Day In The LORD" . His belief in the Lord was genuine and deeply held as he displayed when he became ill and struggled with his health .The last time I saw him was about a month before he went to Orlando and we spent several hours together one Sunday morning. Even with an oxygen tank attached to help him breath he still had a welcoming spirit and big smile. I was taken back with his positive spirit even in the poor health he was experiencing. He told me that he wanted to fight to stay alive but that he knew where his true Home was. He was courageous in his battle and trusting in his forever life. God Blessed me in knowing you my good brother in Christ.

A.MichaelTrombino - June 12, 2019 at 08:47 AM

GI

Michael, Thank you for those beautiful words about Donald. Gigi

Gigi - June 12, 2019 at 10:01 AM

MS

“ It was a true pleasure to meet Don and Gigi during the time we worshiped together at CBC-Aiken. Don always had a ready smile, a jolly, deep-hearted laugh and a firm, warm handshake. You just couldn't help but love him! His obvious love for the Lord Jesus was such a blessing.

We remember the time that we went to Don and Gigi's lovely home in Johnston and had the opportunity to minister. Seeing the barn and the horses and just spending time with them, talking and sharing, and being blessed by them.

Don was the real deal when it came to his walk in Christ. And although I'm sure he had his rough moments during his professional driving career (like we did as well), he never let on.

You'll surely be missed, kind brother in Christ, but you won't be forgotten. Enjoy your heavenly mansion, being in Jesus' presence; and we look forward to the day when we see you again in our glorified bodies. Praise the Lord!

Love in Christ,
Mike and Vicki Simons

Mike and Vicki Simons - June 11, 2019 at 01:11 PM

GI

Thanks so much. What a sweet tribute to Don.

Gigi - June 11, 2019 at 03:18 PM

JT

“ Angel and I will miss Don too. We are very happy we were able to have breakfast with you two together a few months back, Gigi, before the traveling began. And the lunches Don and I had at JetRunway Cafe at FXE, with our friend and birthday buddy, Jeff. The only time I ever went to Sun n Fun in Lakeland was with Don and Jeff a couple years back. So glad we took that opportunity to do so. Don always had an interesting aviation video to share with me online, and we enjoyed chatting about them afterwards.



But beyond that, I have many, many memories of talking with Don about our life in Christ - how He effects it, how He helps us see things differently, and how to be more of an impact on others through His spirit. I pray that I could aspire to even just come close to being the example of Christ that Don was to me, and everyone. The positive attitude spoken of here, that we all saw in Don, was a direct result of his desire to be a reflection of who Jesus is, so that others may see it, and be moved to want to know Him more. I am sure Don received a "Well done..." from his Lord and Savior, as he resides in His presence now.

I thank the Lord for having known Don, and that we could keep in touch through the years. My being a believer is because of Don's witness 23 or 24 years ago. I know we will be speaking of these things again someday. Until then, Don...

John and Angel Torok

John Torok - June 11, 2019 at 09:58 AM

JT

John and Angela Torok -it should be. Spellchecker, uhg.

John Torok - June 11, 2019 at 10:11 AM

GI

Thanks John. Donald loved you and spending time with you and Jeff.

Gigi - June 11, 2019 at 03:19 PM

CP

“ I thank God for the privilege of having had the time to spend with Don here at the Bartch Transplant House. Everyday he would come by the desk with his infectious smile and always make our day a little brighter . We will miss him but never forget him. I love thinking of him with the Lord . No oxygen tanks, no doctors visits, and no wheelchair. Just perfect health and joy. I thank the Lord for preparing that for him. We only knew each other for a small while but know we will meet again for all Eternity. Gigi, you are wonderful and always part of the Bartch Transplant House family.



Cary Petiot - June 11, 2019 at 08:37 AM

GI

Cary, Thank you so much for such a lovely tribute. Gigi

Gigi - June 11, 2019 at 03:19 PM

PP

“ Dan and I will miss Don. He was always smiling and had a grateful heart and attitude. He was a special man. He is home now with Jesus and out of pain which is a blessing. You are in our prayers Gigi.

*God Bless You,
Dan and Peggy Plowman*

Peggy Plowman - June 11, 2019 at 07:50 AM

GI

Thank you guys. Hope you can make the Memorial July 13th. Don loved talking to Dan about planes and was so grateful when Dan took him to see the jet.

Gigi - June 11, 2019 at 08:09 AM

EC

“ It was a pleasure knowing Don. He was a good neighbor. We're so happy that he is now home with our Lord.

Ella and Glenn Cromer - June 10, 2019 at 04:20 PM

GI

Thank you so much for everything. Gigi

Gigi - June 10, 2019 at 05:14 PM

TA

“ His contagious spirit of happiness radiated. From the moment Maddy and I met you and Donald at the Bartch House, we enjoyed seeing you both. His stories and pictures were plentiful and he reminded me so much of my dad - I wish they could have met. Instant family when we met you two in a lonely place away from home. What a gift!

Don had the kindest heart I have seen in a long, long time. Just one look at his face and you had no choice but to smile. He taught me to be happy no matter what you face. His lesson will stick forever. No matter what he faced, and it was a lot, he always smiled. ALWAYS. Keep trying, no matter the odds. That smile and attitude - seems simple to say, but it was so impactful.

It was such a pleasure meeting his family. He was surrounded by some awesome people that touched our hearts.

As I've told Gigi, Don has visited me in my dreams and like always.... he is smiling. But has no oxygen on! Sitting there smiling like the cat that got the canary with his FedEx hat on. We think of him every time we see a FedEx truck and that will never change.

I've read on facebook a meme that sums it up pretty good - Some people are only on this earth long enough to teach the lessons they were sent to teach. He was a great teacher to many I'm sure and will be missed deeply.

If any of you get close to Naples some day - please give us a call. We would love to see you.

Love ya,
Tammy and Madison Arthur
2414 58th Ave NE
Naples FL 34120
239-293-4803

tammy arthur - June 10, 2019 at 04:14 PM

GI

Tammy, that was the sweetest tribute. Thank you so much. Gigi

Gigi - June 10, 2019 at 05:15 PM

EO

I know who Tammy in Orlando hospital , my brother and I talked for pleasure. That's great pleasure to Tammy and her daughter too. ❤️

Eileen Olio - June 10, 2019 at 07:19 PM

SG

*Gigi, Don was a great man. I will always remember his contagious smile and laughter. He was always such a warm and welcoming brother. I am and will continue to pray for you in the upcoming days.
Sylvia Flowers
CBC Aiken, SC*

Sylvia Hanberry Glowers - June 12, 2019 at 09:31 PM

JB

Gigi, Our prayers are with you and your family. We only had a short time to get to know Don but while you were members in the choir and at Johnston First Baptist Church he was a real blessing with his peck on my cheek and the beautiful smile that only could have come from God. He is at home now and at peace with a healthy body. Joe and are looking forward to seeing him again in our HEAVENLY HOME, We love you Gale & Joe

Joe & Gale Bledsoe - June 12, 2019 at 09:40 PM

MP

We are sorry that he left this world but we know where he is and we will all be reunited again soon. I thank you for keeping us updated so we could walk the journey with you and Don. We were very blessed to have you both in our lives during a time when we were in need of prayer and you both were pray warriors. He also was so welcoming and knew Gods word. and wasnt afraid to share it. We will continue to pray for you and his family members.

Mike and Kim Przybylowicz

Mike Kim Przybylowicz - June 13, 2019 at 11:10 PM



Thank you so much for your kind words.

Gigi - June 19, 2019 at 01:38 PM