



## Gregory McDonald

July 15, 1954 - June 1, 2019

Gregory Edward McDonald, age 64, of Davidson, NC, passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2019. He was born on July 15, 1954, the son of the late Edward McDonald and Rose McDonald Southard. Although Greg was born in Harvey, IL, his family moved often throughout the Midwest and Northeast during his childhood. Greg's father passed away when he was 16, and Greg finished out his high school years living with his friend Charlie Arteglier in Morristown, New Jersey. His parents Charles and Doris Arteglier became Greg's second parents and one day, beloved grandparents for Greg's children.

Greg graduated from Boston College with a group of life long friends dubbed the "Whales," and later earned his MBA from Duke University. On St. Patrick's Day 1980, Greg met Anne Marie Sabalis at a party in New York City. In 1983 Anne and Greg were married in Charlotte, NC. Anne and Greg had two daughters, Kate and Kristen McDonald, and moved up to Davidson, NC, the town they have called home for the past 25 years. Greg's life was devoted to his family. His career was in finance at Ingersoll-Rand and later ZF in Newton, NC and he sought to provide his family with the stability he missed in his own childhood. He was successful beyond measure, giving his daughters an idyllic and stable upbringing as part of the Davidson community. Greg enjoyed life's simple pleasures—spending time in the mountains with his family, sailing on Lake Norman, and sharing a bottle of wine with good friends.

Greg survived testicular cancer in his thirties and was thankful for a cure which gave him 28 years to raise his girls. Four years ago, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He fought hard for more time with his family. The family is grateful for the doctors and nurses at Duke Cancer Center, where Greg underwent complex surgery by Dr. Rebekah White. The family wishes to express special appreciation for the empathic care of Dr. Reza Nazemzadeh and the staff at Levine Cancer Institute SouthPark. We will always remember your compassion.

In addition to his wife, Anne Marie, Greg is survived by his daughter Kate, her husband Jeffrey Cook, and Greg's granddaughter Ellison Cook of Alexandria, VA; his daughter

Kristen and her husband Brian McSorley of Charlotte, NC; his sister Chris Beck of Elkton, FL; his brother Jeffrey McDonald of Jackson, WY; and many beloved sisters- and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, extended family members, and dear friends. The love and support of family and friends made all the difference in Greg's life.

A celebration of Greg's life will be held at Davidson United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 15th at 1:00 pm, with the Reverend Linda Zastovnik officiating. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Levine Cancer Institute ([www.atriumhealthfoundation.org](http://www.atriumhealthfoundation.org)), the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network ([www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org)), for which "Greg's Gang" raised nearly \$10,000 last year, or the Merrie-Woode Foundation (<https://merriewoodde.thankyou4caring.org/Donate>), which preserves the natural beauty of his favorite mountain retreat.

James Funeral Home is serving the family and condolences may be sent to them through their website at [www.jamesfuneralhomelkn.com](http://www.jamesfuneralhomelkn.com).

# Events

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**JUN** **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

**15**

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Davidson United Methodist Church

233 S. Main Street, Davidson, NC, US, 28036

# Comments

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“ All it took was one St. Patrick's day Party to change your life and Anne's forever. Prior to going to the party Anne said "We can't stay late-I have to study for a test."At 2 a.m. that morning she was mesmerized by you and vice versa and the thought of the test was out the window. You were both laughing and had a great time.Many wonderful memories were to follow after that.You have been a wonderful friend, husband to Anne, father and grandfather. You will be sorely missed but watching us from above. Thanks for your friendship and funnny jokes. Love, Patti Riker

Patti Riker - June 14 at 10:24 PM

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“ LOVE,PATTI RIKER purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of Gregory McDonald.



LOVE,PATTI RIKER - June 14 at 10:10 PM

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“ Greg and our mutual classmates at Duke enjoyed so many life-shaping experiences together. I am so saddened to hear of Greg's passing and cherish our time together every other weekend for nearly 2 years struggling to complete assignments and studying into the weekend after long weeks of work. Greg and i were teamed on many projects, and I learned so much from him about patiently considering a problem/task and multi-tasking family-work-school. His wisdom helped me through a period of career decisions. To this day, I have Greg's business card in my portfolio - many times I have looked at this binder of cards and considered pitching it due to our digital contact lists, and I would see his card. In fact, I'm looking at it now, right next to another Fuqua friend. My tears and prayers go out to Ann Marie, your family and community of friends. God Bless, Dave Myers

Dave Myers - June 14 at 02:12 PM

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“ Melody lit a candle in memory of Gregory McDonald



Melody - June 11 at 06:41 PM

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“ Lu-Oma Hawks lit a candle in memory of Gregory McDonald



Lu-Oma Hawks - June 11 at 10:21 AM

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“ We were, indeed, saddened to learn of Greg's passing. Dear AnneMarie, our hearts, thoughts, and love are with you, Kate, and Kristen. You are so dear to all of us at the Pines and I hope you can our feel our thoughts and know we are grieving with you.  
Love,  
Ruby and J.B.

Ruby Stroud - June 10 at 05:00 PM

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“ Greg McDonald was a good friend and I enjoyed the three plus years I had the pleasure of working with him at ZF Newton. During these years, I have gotten to know him and I have marveled at his ongoing enthusiasm and love for his work. Even on days when he wasn't feeling his best, he never let it slow him down. He never hesitated to educate me both on the finance topics but more importantly on issues related to the wonderful ZF team members. I am not only going to miss him, but also the reassurance of him being on the other side of the office door we shared. I am grateful in knowing that he is now completely healed.  
Ann Marie, my family and I are keeping you and your family in our prayers. May God give you comfort and peace.  
Greg Basden



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gregory McDonald.



June 10 at 02:20 PM

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“ We were distressed to receive the news of Greg's passing this morning. While you, AnneMarie, worked so tirelessly in helping Grant recover from his injury, we were totally unaware of what you were going through. Please know that we send our deepest love and condolences to you, Kate, and Kristen.  
Mary and Grant Jones

Grant Jones - June 10 at 02:12 PM

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“ AnneMarie & Family

You and yours are very much in my thoughts. I send you much love.  
Joann Rautenberg

Joann Johnston Rautenberg - June 10 at 12:22 PM

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“ AnnMarie & Family

Carla and I have fond memories of our time together at the Yacht club just sitting around chewing the fat while our girls enjoyed sail camp. Greg loved sailing and was renewed by the the quiet peaceful enjoyment of sailing his Flying Scot on a weekday afternoon.

Carla & Larry Vitez

larry - June 09 at 06:20 PM

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“ AnnMarie & Family,

We are so sorry to learn of Greg's passing...and now he is finally at peace.

We recall fondly of our first meeting you & Greg at St Gabriel's Parish in the late 80's. We quickly established a friendship that endured all these years, through good times and challenging times. We have many fond memories of our gatherings and dinners and always admired greatly yours and Greg's strong resilience and faith.

So to Greg, our dear,sweet friend.... peace, love and a thank you for your friendship, we will see you upstairs!

To AnnMarie and family, we send our condolences, love and personal prayers.

Mary & Bob Windt

mary windt - June 09 at 01:53 PM

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“ Greg and I enjoyed many years working together at IR. He and I shared a common goal...to some day defeat cancer. When I was first diagnosed with cancer in 1996 Greg took the time to visit me at home, more than an hour drive from his home. I was encouraged by his visit and will always be grateful for his friendship and support.

Prayers for his family. RIP

John Davis

John Davis - June 09 at 11:30 AM

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“ AnneMarie - You have my deepest sympathy for your loss of Greg. Beth and I will hold you and your family in our prayers. Please know that the same is happening with the many members of your family at The Pines. - Steve Jewell

Steve Jewell - June 07 at 04:07 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gregory McDonald.



June 06 at 06:22 PM

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“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Gregory McDonald.



June 06 at 04:24 PM

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“ I will always remember Greg's appreciation and respect for the people we worked with and the love for his family. I learned many lessons about life and work from him in the years we worked together. I can hear him now saying "just do the right thing". I considered him a friend and a mentor. He is missed.

**Mike Curtis** - June 06 at 01:49 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Greg's passing. I really enjoyed working with Greg at ZF.

**Angie Stewart** - June 05 at 02:15 PM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear of Greg's passing. He was truly a wonderful man and coworker. I am keeping your entire family in our thoughts and prayers.

**Donna Frushour** - June 04 at 04:57 PM

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“ I worked with Greg for several years at Ingersoll-Rand. He was definitely one of the good guys. I enjoyed the times we worked together and though I had not seen him for several years I find myself remembering him as a special friend.

May God comfort you and leave you fond memories of Greg's walk through life.

Gary Shrum

**Gary Shrum** - June 04 at 03:38 PM

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“ Greg, we have had a lot of good laughs over the years, shared good music, and many phone conversations. I will miss you, Rest in peace.

**Kurt Brown** - June 04 at 12:31 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to you and your family AnneMarie Rest in Peace

**Jan Parson** - June 04 at 12:15 PM

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“ prayers for Gregs family he will be missed

**Tim Crouse** - June 04 at 09:12 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of Greg's passing. He fought a great fight and is no longer suffering. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. Don Coffey (ZF)

**Don Coffey** - June 03 at 09:54 PM