



Donald J. Fillion

July 23, 1945 - October 26, 2019

Donald J. Fillion, 74 years of Saline, passed away at his home at 3:41 p.m. Saturday, October 26, 2019, after sort-term battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born, July 13, 1945 in Detroit, he was the son of the late Horace and Alice (Ricard) Fillion. Donald graduated from Precious Blood High School, Detroit. He attended Eastern Michigan University earning his bachelor's degree in education. He was a dedicated educator for Lincoln Consolidated School District in Augusta Township, Michigan, for thirty-six years, retiring in 2004.

Donald was a longtime member of Monroe Boat Club. He was craftsman of many trades, excelling at woodworking and sewing. Donald created many half-hulls and sail covers for friends and boat club members. In his spare time, he enjoyed golfing, sailing, and spending time with friends and family.

To cherish his memory, Donald leaves his daughter, Casey Fillion of Monroe; longtime partner, Rebecca Ellwein of Saline, Michigan; and two sisters, Diane (Richard) Hammer of Canton, Michigan and Annete Collings of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions in his memory are suggested to an organization of the donor's choice.

In accordance with Donald's wishes, cremation has already taken place and Memorial visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until services celebrating his life begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at Bacarella Funeral Home 1201 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI, 48161. Donald's remains will be interred at Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery, Southfield, Michigan, at a later date.

Events

NOV **Memorial Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

2

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.

Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI, US, 48161

NOV **Memorial Service** 03:00PM

2

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.

Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road, Monroe, MI, US, 48161

Comments



“ My biology teacher and Bio Tech teacher in the early 70's. Many great memories !
“Don Juan Fillion” all the girls were crazy about him .
A truly wonderful educator at Lincoln. I am so sorry for your loss. I'll always
remember him.

David Salley - class of 73' - January 30, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Mr. Fillion was my biology teacher in high school. He was a stellar educator. His
classes were always informative, interesting and entertaining. One particular lesson
will always stand out in my mind. He was showing pictures of the Universe and
talking about how each star was a sun, potentially with planets that may have some
type of life form inhabiting them and how arrogant it is to assume Earth was the only
planet in existence with life, intelligent or not. He opened many young minds and was
truly an unforgettable and inspiring teacher to any of us lucky enough to have known
him. Fillion was truly a Renaissance man. May God bless his family and loved ones.
Sincerely, Kim Kendall Pomeroy

Kim Kendall Pomeroy - November 09, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ Wishing my cousin Becky heartfelt condolences! I'm so sorry for the loss. Don was a
very nice man. I'm glad I got the chance to meet him. Cousin Katie Norris Tucker

Katie Norris Tucker - November 04, 2019 at 03:11 PM



“ From The Hartland Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of
Donald J. Fillion.



From The Hartland Family - November 01, 2019 at 05:25 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald J. Fillion.



November 01, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ Don was my cousin, 7 years older than myself. I only remember a few wonderful encounters. My family was visiting from Ontario and I spent part of a summer afternoon with Don. He had a great collection of model airplanes he had glued together over the previous few years. From his second floor bedroom he set them aflame and tossed them out the window, to entertain me. (I was 9 or 10, he was 16 or 17). Firecrackers may have been involved.

So I learned something basic from Don -- don't cling to the past. Grow up and go on and have fun while you're doing it. I can't say I know adult Don, but judging from all these messages from former students and others, I'd say he stayed the same. He really enjoyed entertaining and got a lot of teaching done at the same time.

Jim Waddell - November 01, 2019 at 02:54 AM



“ Mr. Fillion was my 10th grade Biology teacher in 1978-1979 and quickly became one of my favorite teachers. I became an accountant, but I work at the UM Medical School as an administrator in part because he inspired in me such a love and interest in science. I've recounted many of the projects we did in class to my son over the years, who just received his BA in Biology. My condolences to the friends and family.
Debra Helzerman Paris

Debbie Paris - October 31, 2019 at 01:03 PM



“ The Piersante and Humphrey families purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Donald J. Fillion.



The Piersante and Humphrey families - October 30, 2019 at 06:20 PM



“ Love, Dan & Dawn (Wolfe) Szymecko purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Donald J. Fillion.



Love, Dan & Dawn (Wolfe) Szymecko - October 30, 2019 at 01:50 PM



“ I had Mr. Fillion in High School for Biology and I just loved him he was the BEST teacher. We had so much fun in his class he even brought in cow lungs just so we could see how ours work. My mom did ceramics and made me a duck with one black eye so I could give it to Mr. Fillion with a card that said " I'd rather fight than switch " . I gave it to him the last day I had him as a teacher. My heart go's out to his family GOD be with all of you at this time .
RIP Mr. Fillion I will never forget you.
Dawn (Wolfe) Szymecko

Dawn (Wolfe) Szymecko - October 30, 2019 at 01:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald J. Fillion.



October 30, 2019 at 08:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald J. Fillion.



October 29, 2019 at 05:22 PM



“ Dear Casey, so sad to learn of your father's death. Mr. Fillion was my biology teacher in 1976 and 79 and had a huge impact on my life. He was a great teacher and pheasant hunting buddy who also taught me taxidermy. As a result of your father, I too became a biology teacher for 30 years in Midland MI and now own a business called "Hidden Cabin Taxidermy". The last time I saw him was 20 years ago and he took me sailing while we both smoked a good cigar. It's important to me that you know how special your dad was and he will be remembered by many for the positive difference he made in our lives. I'll be in Wyoming hunting during his memorial service, but I would truly be honored to attend his enturnment service when I return. I will celebrate his life as well this Saturday and be thinking about you and your family. May God bless you and give you peace knowing that your dad is in a better place. Sincerely, Mark Camilleri

Mark Camilleri - October 29, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ Mark, love your words of kindness regarding Mr. Fillion. He was a fantastic teacher and it was obvious to us all, that he held a special place in his heart for you. I'll never forget the fun we had (porcupine needle - ouch) and the lessons learned in his class. Fillion will never be forgotten and forever fondly remembered by all of his former students. Sincerely, Kim Kendall Pomeroy

Kim Kendall Pomeroy - November 09, 2019 at 02:44 PM



“ Such a loss... I will miss Don... I met him thru Becky, and we immediately all became good friends. My husband, who has also passed away, loved Don as well! We had so much fun - all together... my husbands cooking, sailing, sharing jokes and stories. Don nicknamed himself the "no fun police".. which we laughed at because he loved to have fun, although he said this in reference to his teaching years... yet students loved him! His talents of sailing and building were amazing. I will always cherish the stunning bird house "hotel" he made me. Don left an impression on everyone he met. Such a thoughtful, kind, and a loving individual.
You are all in my prayers, blessings abound. Much Love, Cynthia Doody

Cynthia K Doody - October 29, 2019 at 04:38 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I am sure that what I share is no different than many. Yet, I must share that He was an amazing Teacher. His unique methods encouraged many to do what we considered impossible (pass in Science). He has impacted many of lives and I am grateful to be one of the many. I remember 10th grade biology we were dissecting a rat. I was the one that worked up enough courage to cut. He bumped the tail so that it touched my hand. I screamed so loud because I guess I thought the rat miraculously came back alive ? I was able to laugh (once my heart began beating again) and complete the task. You all are in my prayers during this difficult time.

Jena Green - October 29, 2019 at 06:55 AM



“ Mr.Fillion was a great teacher. I can honestly say science was always hard for me but he made it easy to understand. He always went the extra mile to help his students. And made every day in class fun. He will truly be missed

Christina Pryor - October 29, 2019 at 12:45 AM



“ Mr Fillion inspired my choice to become a science teacher. He cared about his students and his love of Biology was contagious. I am so sorry to hear that he has passed. He made a wonderful impact of the lives of many!

Kerin Hayden - October 29, 2019 at 12:12 AM



“ My thoughts are with his family. Mr.Fillion, you were beyond a phenomenal teacher and as evidenced by what I've read and what I remember personally, you impacted so, so many of your students! You were most definitely the most memorable teacher I had in HS. Not only did your passion help me love biology and science even more and retain material.

You also went out of your way to help me with some personal things that I had been going through and gave me the space academically to get through it. Your concern wasn't just with a students grade, but the students themselves and it showed!

I hope you rest well, and your family finds comfort knowing how deeply you made a difference and how your life impacted so many!



Jesse Hartness-Spencer - October 28, 2019 at 11:12 PM



“ Mr. Fillion was my favorite teacher (1981 and 1982). Some of my best memories where dissecting the cat (cat jokes included). I have taught biology to homeschool students and have recently graduated as a physical therapist assistant. His class was always something to look forward to. He has had a great impact on my love for the study of the inner workings of the human body. My prayers are with his loved ones.

Debbie Reich - October 28, 2019 at 10:25 PM



“ Mr. Fillion helped was the consummate model of a teacher. My degree in biology and journey to and through medical school was spurred on by his fostering of my love for science. I still fondly recall many of his teachings and his always entertaining learning environment. Thank you Fillion family for sharing him with so many of his. He had left a legacy to cherish and one most of us aspire to emulate.

Natasha Eaddy Rose - October 28, 2019 at 09:04 PM



“ I have taught Bio in high school for the past 9 years because Mr. Fillion was an epically good teacher who inspired me to do something useful with my life. I owe so much of my happiness to you Mr. Fillion.

Amanda Neaton - October 28, 2019 at 08:41 PM



“ Mr. Fillion was my AP Biology teacher. He made science accessible to every student. He was in charge without taking himself too seriously. He loved to joke with students and he encouraged students to have fun with learning. RIP Mr. Fillion.

Adrienne Quinn - October 28, 2019 at 08:32 PM



“ Besides making it "cool to learn," Mr. Fillion left you with impressions about life--to consider the choices you make and the results that come from them. I loved our arguments in class, not because I won them--well maybe once, but because he allowed them. Not many educators want to foster an environment for independent and true critical thinking from their students but he allowed his students the space to do so! You will be missed Mr. Fillion! Thank you for awesome memories! To the family--we are grateful to have been a part of his life. Many blessings to his family and friends.

Elizabeth Mickels - October 28, 2019 at 07:38 PM



“ Sending heart full thoughts and prayers to Mr. Fillion's family and friends. As others have stated, Mr. Fillion made learning and Biology engaging and entertaining. Furthermore, he nurtured a environment that made it "cool" to learn. And I'm sure all of us have had a memorable back-and-forth with "Don-Juan Fillion", who always knew how to win the last word, getting our focus back on AP Biology, the Krebs cycle, or C3 vs C4 plants.

Sincerely Sanjay, Agam, and Ben on behalf of the Class of 98

sanjay - October 28, 2019 at 06:51 PM



“ Mr. Fillion was one of the few teachers I was comfortable going and asking questions even when I didn't have him as a teacher, he made me feel smart for having questions. He was passionate about the things he loved and it showed.

Sara McGuire - October 28, 2019 at 06:45 PM



“ Mr. Fillion was my 10th grade Biology teacher and I learned so much from him. He always made class fun and exciting. I wish there was more teachers like him in this world. He will truly be missed. Rest in heaven. Sending my condolences to all who loves him.

Shelah Johnson (Teall) - October 28, 2019 at 06:37 PM



“ Mr. Fillion was my AP Biology teacher around '97 - '98. I always looked forward to his class. I still tell people about the cat paw mistletoe he hung every year What a great man and teacher to make such a lifelong impression on sarcastic teenagers. Thank you for all the learning and laughs, Mr. Fillion, and all my best to his family.

Amanda Zeoli - October 28, 2019 at 06:24 PM



“ Condolences from a Lincoln graduate who enjoyed his classes and his coaching on the golf team.

Chad Williams - October 28, 2019 at 05:42 PM



“ R.I.P. Mr. Fillion you were an amazing teacher and man. I never would have made it through Biology without your help. I never would have made it through high school either. You had a way with the comebacks for the kids who bullied me.

Patricia Pacheco - October 28, 2019 at 05:31 PM



“ He was one of my favorite teachers. I went on to get a degree in biology and still often think of the lessons I learned from him.

Lisa (Schrecengost) Vickery - October 28, 2019 at 05:10 PM



“ Thanks for being such a great teacher much respect and prayers for comfort and peace for those you left behind
James Cole

James Cole - October 28, 2019 at 04:18 PM



“ Mr.Fillion was my 10th grade biology teacher in 2004/2005. He was an extraordinary teacher! Not only did he make learning fun, he made it memorable. Every class came with many, many jokes & laughs. He taught me during a very trying time in my teenage years and was always a light in my life. He encouraged me to do better and never lost hope in me as a student. I will remember him forever

Meghann Rice - October 28, 2019 at 03:49 PM