



Donald Lee Call

December 23, 1948 - June 9, 2024

Donald Lee Call, beloved husband, father, and community pillar, passed away June 9 at the age of 75 following his daily morning run in Cape Girardeau.

He was born in Cape Girardeau on December 23, 1948, to Ernest and Margie Bertling Call. He married the love of his life, Sharon Westrich, on June 12, 1971, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

He was raised in Cape Girardeau and graduated from Cape Central High school in 1966. He pursued higher education at Southeast Missouri State University, where he excelled both academically and athletically as a member of the basketball team, graduating in 1971.

He answered the call of duty to serve his country in the Vietnam War. Following his military service, Don's commitment to education led him to a distinguished career as a teacher, coach and eventually school superintendent, where he touched the lives of countless students, athletes and educators with his leadership and dedication.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Don was an avid golfer, finding solace and joy on the fairways nearly every day. He had a fondness for Coca-Cola, steadfastly rejecting any notion of a Pepsi substitute.

A passionate supporter, and occasional critic, of the St. Louis Cardinals, Don's love for the team ran deep, and he reveled in the highs and lows of each season. However, his greatest joy came from his family. He was a devoted husband, cherished father of five, and proud papa to ten grandchildren whose laughter and love brought him immeasurable happiness.

Survivors include his wife Sharon; daughter, Christine (Matt) Lacy of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; four sons, Donald Call II of St. Louis, Missouri, Matthew Call of Cape Girardeau, Michael (Jennifer) Call of Springfield, Missouri and Mark (Sarah) Call of Strafford, Missouri; grandchildren, Anna and Olivia Lacy, Sofia and Thomas Call, Lucas Call, T.J. and Amaya Releford, Cooper, Carter and Clara Call; and niece Le Ann of New York, New York.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Gary Call.

He leaves behind a legacy of service, kindness, and dedication that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Visitation will be Thursday, June 13, 2024 from 4:00 pm- 8:00 pm at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Funeral service will be Friday, June 14, 2024 at 10:00 am at the funeral home. Entombment service will be at Cape County Memorial Cemetery with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be given to Cape Public Schools Foundation and SEMO Athletics Foundation.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

JUN 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

CO

“ Cooper sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald Lee Call



cooper - April 04, 2025 at 08:57 AM

CO

“ Hey, I'm on of his grandkids

Cooper - March 28, 2025 at 03:09 PM

MS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Don's passing. I worked with him at Sparta and had his children in class. He was a kind, fair boss. Sending his family peace.
Martha Swick

Martha Swick - July 18, 2024 at 07:25 PM

LB

“ So sorry to hear about Don. Bob and I had some really great memories with your family. Prayers for Don and family

Louise Borchelt - June 28, 2024 at 08:40 PM

JS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Don's passing. I was in vietnam with Don and Don, John Sherwin and I would playing 3 on 3 basketball whenever time allowed. I can tell you he was a great shooter but was never going going to lead the team in assists! Sharon, so sorry to hear this news. Prayers to you and your family. A good man gone to soon!! John Stull

John Stull - June 16, 2024 at 10:07 AM

JS

“ In 1972 Don and I served as soldiers together in Vietnam. He was a great guy and has been a good friend these past 52 years. I'm glad he was able to do the Honor Flight to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC just last week. Don and I were both basketball fans. He was a player's player with a terrific jump shot. My thoughts and prayers are with Sharon and their children and grandchildren. I will miss him. RIP my friend John Sherwin, from Maryland

John Sherwin - June 14, 2024 at 04:13 PM

MW

“ My Sympathies to Sharon & his Family. Don was my first Basketball Coach in Oak Ridge, but we spent a lot of time talking Baseball. We reconnected a few years ago at a Get Together in Cape, where many former students got together to catch up, & Don & Dave Halter were there. Don was as good as they come. RIP Coach Call!

Mark Wibbenmeyer - June 14, 2024 at 12:24 AM

MW

One more thing- Don introduced me to Wib's BBQ in Jackson during Drivr's Ed Class. I've been going there every time I come home to visit ever since.

Mark Wibbenmeyer - June 14, 2024 at 12:27 AM

DH

“ Sharon & Family:

I am so sorry that I can't be at Donnie's visitation or the funeral as I am in Florida visiting my brother. Donnie and I go all the way back when he was in Trinity Lutheran School. I was older than Donnie, but my buddy Bob Miller and I used to drive Donnie and Terry Robinson around as we all loved to play basketball.

Donnie was one of the Sunday night basketball crew that played at Trinity School. Everyone loved the wooden floor and the short length of the gym.

We all loved playing and through the years I have played many games with Donnie.

He was a great guy and a great player. We were talking on the phone recently about all the guys who have left us and all the memories we shared.

I wish you God's blessing and peace.

Don Hopper

Don Hopper - June 13, 2024 at 04:13 PM

PM

Sharon and Family; I want to let you know how very sorry I am for the loss of Don. He was a great friend. I went to high school with Don and I have always loved his sense of humor and his love of family. He was Godfather go my son. Don was well known in our community. I loved watching him playing basketball at SEMO. Don was a great father, husband and papa. Rest in peace Don. 🇺🇸 🕊

Pat Mungle - June 13, 2024 at 10:47 PM

BH

“ *My deepest sympathy to Sharon and family. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Barbara Hess - June 13, 2024 at 11:46 AM

MM

“ *Many fond memories of Don(my boss) & his sons(students in my classroom).The family has my deepest sympathy.💕💕.*
May Morris

May Morris - June 13, 2024 at 10:38 AM

AN

“ *Sharon and family, I am saddened to hear of Coach Call's passing. I remember the good times we had while you were in Fulton, Ky. May God wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you at this time.*

Andrew Nelson

Andrew Nelson - June 13, 2024 at 07:21 AM

EL

“ *Erika Lundien purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Donald Lee Call.*



Erika Lundien - June 12, 2024 at 11:40 PM

MY

“ *To Sharon and your family,
My condolences for your loss. Don was a good person. May you be comforted by your memories and of his good works.
Sincerely, Melody Young*

Melody Young - June 12, 2024 at 09:40 PM

RH

Don and family came to Sparta as our superintendent I was on the board . He became a friend as well as an excellent superintendent. I appreciate the mark he made in our school and community

Randy Huff - June 12, 2024 at 11:03 PM

JC

“ *Jesse, Jenna and Theo Cornelison purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Donald Lee Call.*



Jesse, Jenna and Theo Cornelison - June 12, 2024 at 08:29 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Lee Call.*



June 12, 2024 at 05:12 PM

TJ

“ *Teresa Jansen lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Call*



Teresa Jansen - June 12, 2024 at 04:58 PM

TA

“ *The Ackermans purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Donald Lee Call.*



The Ackermans - June 12, 2024 at 04:43 PM

TA

“ *The Ackermans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Lee Call.*

The Ackermans - June 12, 2024 at 04:43 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Lee Call.*



June 12, 2024 at 01:39 PM

TF

“ *Tony Finney and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Lee Call.*

Tony Finney and Family - June 12, 2024 at 01:39 PM

MV

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Don. My prayers are with your family - Mary V*

Mary Vickery - June 12, 2024 at 01:20 PM