



## Donald J. Grons

June 16, 1942 - January 9, 2020

Donald J. Grons, 77, of Spring Grove, IL passed away Thursday, January 9, 2020 at Northwestern McHenry Hospital, McHenry, IL.

Donald was born in Chicago, IL on June 16, 1942, a son of the late Josephine (Ratkowski) and Bruno Grons.

He was married to Kathryn Stuemke on October 28, 1967, in Skokie, IL.

A graduate of John Carroll University with a bachelor of arts in business administration, he became a consultant for Oracle. He was a member of APICS (American Production and Inventory Control Society) for many years.

He served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1969, stationed in Verdun, France for two years.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic in Richmond, IL and a former member of St. John the Baptist in Johnsburg, IL. He was a member of the Johnsburg Community Club for several years, a Board member of The Preserve HOA, a Little League Baseball Coach and an avid Cubs fan. He loved playing golf, his model trains, and especially loved spending time with his four grandchildren.

Donald is survived by his wife Kathryn "Kathy"; two sons Donald C. (Shelli) Grons, of Spring Grove, IL; Bill, (Kristin) Grons, of Johnsburg, IL; four grandchildren Paige, Jordan, Davis and Nicholas and a sister, Audrey, (Keith) Scheele, of Sun City, AZ.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 14th at Ehorn-Adams Funeral Home 10011 Main St, Richmond. Mass of Resurrection will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Jan. 15th at St. Joseph Catholic Church 10519 Main St, Richmond with Msgr. Martin Heinz officiating.

Interment will be in St. Joseph Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to St. Joseph Catholic Church Building Fund 10519 Main St. Richmond, IL 60071.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery of Richmond

11100 Burlington Road  
Richmond, IL 60071

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **14**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ehorn-Adams Funeral Home (Richmond)  
10011 N Main St  
PO Box 375  
Richmond, IL 60071  
(815) 678-7311  
bruce@ehornadams.com  
<http://www.ehornadams.com>

## Mass of Resurrection

JAN **15**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church (Richmond)  
10519 N. Main St  
Richmond, IL 60071  
(815) 678-7421  
saintjosephchurch@gmail.com  
<http://stjosephrichmondil.weconnect.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald J. Grons*

January 29, 2023 at 06:51 AM



“ *I remember Don from our classmate and dormmate years at John Carroll University in the early '60s and from our various reunions and events attended at JCU since then.*

*In looking back, I remember Don as a bit low key and serious yet easily approachable and affable in his own way and greatly cooperative and supportive in matters to be dealt with.*

*In looking now anew, I sense that Don continued to exhibit these traits in the successful family life and management career he led as highlighted in these tributes.*

*Rest in peace, Don, and my condolences to Kathy and sons Donald and Bill on your passing*

*William J. Kerner, Sr.  
JCU Class of 1964*

**William J. Kerner, Sr.** - January 15, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



January 13, 2020 at 04:24 PM

TF

“ *The Hendrixson Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



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**The Hendrixson Family** - January 13, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



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January 13, 2020 at 10:26 AM

MT

“ *I worked with Don for several years at Oracle. He was on the manufacturing side and I was on the financial side. When I was promoted to manage he mentored me. Don always had time for a question or just to listen. He was respectful to others and when he listened to you he was focused on what you were saying.*

*The last time I saw him was at a baseball game. Go figure!*

*I will miss him and his laugh.*

*I said a Chaplet of Divine Mercy for Don. Rest in peace Don.*

*God Bless.*

*Mary Thomas*

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**Mary Thomas** - January 12, 2020 at 03:29 PM

KG

*Mary, he definitely loved his Cubbies. Thank you for leaving such sweet words. We truly appreciate hearing them.*

*Sincerely,  
Kristin Grons (daughter-in-law)*

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**Kristin Grons** - January 13, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



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January 12, 2020 at 02:25 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



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January 12, 2020 at 02:22 PM

LF

“ *Love, The Paulsen Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



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**Love, The Paulsen Family** - January 12, 2020 at 12:02 PM

TJ

“ *The York's, Kniskern's & Johnson's purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald J. Grons.*



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**The York's, Kniskern's & Johnson's** - January 11, 2020 at 06:17 PM

YO

“ *York's lit a candle in memory of Donald J. Grons*



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**York's** - January 11, 2020 at 05:58 PM

“ I had the pleasure of meeting this most remarkable man June of 1994 when he interviewed me for a position with Oracle. On 4 July, 1994, Don called me to offer me the position of instructor with his amazing manufacturing group. That was the beginning of a cherished relationship with this kind man of God who was the best manager I have ever had in my entire professional career.

During the time we were working to create a product for Oracle, he was there to listen to me gripe, stomp my feet, and even occasionally almost cry because I was so frustrated with the process. He was my anchor, my sounding board, the voice of sanity and helped me calm down and even made me laugh. After greeting me on the phone, he started our real conversation with "Now, Vera" and proceeded to give me bad news. But the amazing thing was that I was more concerned with Don having to give me the news, than the actual news itself. You could tell he just hated to be the bearer of any bad news. Don's team of 'dirty dozen' was a force to be reckon with and all the other instructors wanted to be part of his 'work hard, play hard' team. He even rented a convertible once and let us all climb aboard for a ride around the parking lot -- having the time of our lives with him at the wheel.

When Don retired, over 40 people came to Chicago to surprise him at Wrigley field and then at a party hosted in his honor. That's the kind of man he was - he inspired all of us and we never forgot him.

His face would just light up when he talked of his beautiful wife, Kathy, his kids and grand kids. They meant the world to him and we would always ask to see pictures.

My heart is breaking and the light in this world is dimmer at his passing. I believe God sends people to us for a reason. I believe God sent Don to me as an example of a man who was strong in his christian belief and he exemplified it every day with all he met. I thank God for this blessing and ask Him to give strength, comfort and courage to his wife Kathy and his family.

*God Bless you,*

*Vera Reyna*

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**Vera Reyna** - January 11, 2020 at 05:31 PM

KG

*Vera, thank you so much for your kind words. We love hearing these stories about him. Don was an amazing man and I am glad that your paths crossed. He really loved his team. Thank you again.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kristin Grons (daughter-in-law)*

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**Kristin Grons** - January 13, 2020 at 08:57 PM