



Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr.

April 12, 1941 - February 7, 2024

TOWNSEND; Donald F. Fitzgerald, Sr., 82, of Townsend died Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Health Alliance - Leominster Hospital.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of a truly remarkable man, Donald Fitzgerald, at the age of 82. A cherished husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Don left us peacefully surrounded by his loving family. Known affectionately as "Pepere" to all, his departure leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew him, yet his legacy of kindness, laughter, and love endures.

Born in Manchester, NH, spending most of his life in Townsend, Don dedicated his life to serving his community and country. His early years saw him bravely serving as a volunteer firefighter for Townsend, a testament to his unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of his neighbors. His leadership extended to the North Middlesex school system, where he served as the president of the booster club, passionately supporting and uplifting the youth.

Don's patriotism was further exemplified through his honorable service in the Army National Guard for eight years, during which he demonstrated exceptional dedication and courage. His professional life was marked by over two decades of commitment to Digital Equipment Corporation, where his work

ethic, integrity, and camaraderie were highly valued.

Beyond his public service and professional achievements, Don was a man of many talents and quirks that endeared him to all. His unique way of celebrating life included counting everyone's birthday in bananas and affectionately calling people "George" in moments of whimsy. His hugs were legendary; a warm embrace from Don was a rite of passage for anyone new he met, always accompanied by a radiant smile.

An accomplished pianist and songwriter, Don shared his love for music through his infamous songs, including "Don't Go There," leaving listeners smiling and pondering the mysterious "there." His artistic talents didn't end with music; he was also an avid painter, capturing the beauty of life in every stroke.

Don's culinary skills were unmatched, known for his delicious muffins made from an eclectic mix of ingredients and his exceptional Chinese "wok" cooking. His love for condiments and the art of "doctoring" his food became a beloved ritual at family meals.

Above all, Don was a devoted husband to his wife, Elaine, for 61 years, making her laugh every day and sharing a love that was truly inspiring. He was a devoted father to Sharon and her husband Mitch, Cindy and her husband Tom, Lisa and her husband Tom, and Donald and his wife Lauren; a surrogate father to Stephanie Morrison and the best Pepere in the world to his grandchildren Lydia, Tony, Alyssa, Troy, Adam, Hayley, Jacob, Erica (d.1998), Matthew, Tessa, Landon, Brody, and great-grandchildren, Ellie and Rory, instilling in them values of kindness, generosity, and the importance of family.

As we bid farewell to Don, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and the countless memories he leaves behind. His legacy of love, laughter, and

kindness will forever be cherished by his wife, children, and all fortunate enough to know him.

Don, your love and spirit will always guide us. Rest in peace, dear Pepere.

Donald's family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours 4-7 PM Friday, February 9, 2024 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street (Rte 119) Townsend Center. www.andersonfuneral.com.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated 10 AM Saturday, February 10, 2024 at St. John's Church, 1 School Street, Townsend. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery, Townsend.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Townsend Fire-EMS, in honor of Don's lifelong commitment to serving others.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

31 Highland St
Townsend, MA 01469

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend
250 Main Street ~ Route 119
Townsend, MA 01469
(978) 597-2692

Funeral Mass

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
1 School Street
Townsend, MA 01469

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..



February 08, 2024 at 05:31 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..



February 08, 2024 at 02:55 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..



February 08, 2024 at 02:49 PM



“ *Bill, Ally, BAM, and the Bunch* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..

Bill, Ally, BAM, and the Bunch - February 08, 2024 at 02:49 PM

EC

“ *My heart aches for the entire Fitzgerald family. I hope you find peace through your love for him, cherished memories and abundant love you have for each other. Such a kind man with a welcoming spirit, jovial smile, quick with a laugh and love for family.*

*Thank you for the kindness you always showed me & of coarse the fabulous boating, dance & wedding videos!
Peace & Love, Liza (Simkins) Cronin*

Elizabeth (Liza) Cronin - February 08, 2024 at 01:33 PM

CK

*Wishing sincere sympathy to Elaine and the family. Praying for peace for you all.
Carol and Charlie Kilbourn*

Carol and Charlie Kilbourn - February 10, 2024 at 03:43 AM

EC

“ *Elizabeth C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..*

Elizabeth C. - February 08, 2024 at 12:46 PM

CF

“ *Collins family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..*



Collins family - February 07, 2024 at 06:57 PM

CF

“ Collins family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..

Collins family - February 07, 2024 at 06:57 PM

MM

“ Mike & Linda Mailhot purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..



Mike & Linda Mailhot - February 07, 2024 at 05:13 PM

MM

“ Mike & Linda Mailhot planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald Sr..

Mike & Linda Mailhot - February 07, 2024 at 05:13 PM