



Donald Fitzgerald, of Pepperell

June 11, 1971 - November 25, 2024

Pepperell-Donald F. Fitzgerald, Jr, 53, of Pepperell, a man of boundless energy and indomitable spirit passed away peacefully, on Monday morning, November 25, 2024 in his home surrounded by loved ones after a valiant decade-long battle with lung cancer.

Don was born in Fitchburg on June 11, 1971, a son of the late Donald F. Fitzgerald, Sr. He was a graduate of North Middlesex Regional High School in Townsend and earned his bachelor degree from Bridgewater State University.

Born to build and create, Donald designed and constructed not just buildings but entire worlds for his family and friends. From the ground up, he built homes that were more than structures; they were sanctuaries.

Donald's zest for life was evident in everything he did. He supported Jacob and Alyssa in their journey to black belts in karate and spent countless hours cheering from the sidelines of soccer fields. He constructed an ice rink in his yard, ensuring Landon and Brody had the best home advantage any hockey player could ask for.

His adventures were legendary, spanning Spartan races to skydiving, and an epic road trip from Massachusetts to Alaska to relocate his daughter, all while undergoing rigorous cancer treatment. Donald never saw a limit he didn't want to test or a boundary he couldn't push.

His father was a constant companion in both building projects and health battles, providing unwavering support. His mother's enduring love and encouragement shone brightly, especially in his final days, sitting by his side with a tender presence that comforted him until the end.

Donald's life was one of action and impact, filled with tangible proofs of his love and labor. From the homes he renovated to the lives he touched; he left an indelible mark on the world. His legacy is a testament to the power of determination, love, and sheer willpower.

He leaves behind a community richer for his presence and a family fortified by his strength and love.

As we say goodbye, we also say thank you—to a man who was truly a real-life superhero.

He leaves his wife, Lauren P. (Zmetra) Fitzgerald of Pepperell; his mother Elaine (Mailhot) Fitzgerald of Townsend; his four children, Alyssa M. Andrews and her husband, Luke of Nashua, Jacob T. Fitzgerald of Tewksbury, Landon J. Fitzgerald and Brody E. Fitzgerald Both of Pepperell; three sisters, Sharon L. Gravell and her husband, Mitch of Townsend, Cindy A. Brown and her husband Tom of Kittery Point, ME, Lisa A. DeSisto and her husband Tom of Groton; two grandchildren, Ellie and Rory; his former wife, Colleen Cote of Tewksbury and several nephews and nieces.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 2 at 10:30 AM in St. John the Evangelist Church, 1 School St., Townsend followed by a burial in the Hillside Cemetery in Townsend. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, December 1, from 2 to 5 PM in the T.J. Anderson & Son Funeral Home, 250 Main St., Townsend. www.andersonfuneral.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting lung cancer research. Checks

may be made out to Mass General Cancer Center (noting "in memory of Don Fitzgerald" in the memo line or in an accompanying note) and mailed to the Mass General Development Office Attn: Keith Erikson, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114. Gifts may also be made online at www.giving.massgeneral.org . Click on "Give Now." In the area to indicate if your gift should be designated to a program or area, please indicate "Thoracic cancers medical oncology research in memory of Don Fitzgerald."

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Highland Street
Townsend, MA

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 1. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Mass

DEC 2. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

AH

“ 1 file added to the album Donald F. Fitzgerald Jr.



Anderson funeral home - December 04, 2024 at 02:56 PM

TB

“ I met Donald when he came to my farm looking for wood slabs that he could build a unique rustic table with. It was planned for a porch location on the home he was building for his family. Lauren and I knew each other from some school years when we were teaching and counseling elementary school kids.

The table was built and Donald asked if I could help him lift a stone bathtub he had secretly special ordered for Lauren, who he said loved very hot baths. Carefully, when Lauren wasn't home, we used my farm tractor loader to lift the tub into the opening in the framing Donald had left for the tub. He was relieved with success and delighted in his progress to surprise Lauren.

He was wonderfully proud and happy to be an adoring husband. We shared a few other yard projects and Donald was totally dedicated, in all his efforts, to loving his family.

Thank you Donald for sharing your heart. Tony Beattie

Tony Beattie - December 03, 2024 at 07:54 PM

TK

“ Theresa (Mailhot) and George Khouri planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald, Jr..

Theresa (Mailhot) and George Khouri - December 03, 2024 at 02:39 AM

TK

“ Theresa (Mailhot) and George Khouri purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Fitzgerald, of Pepperell.



Theresa (Mailhot) and George Khouri - December 03, 2024 at 02:39 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald, Jr..

December 02, 2024 at 09:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Fitzgerald, of Pepperell.



December 02, 2024 at 09:07 PM

CG

“ Claire G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald, Jr..

Claire G. - December 02, 2024 at 08:57 PM

CG

“ Claire G. purchased the Elegance Gift Basket for the family of Donald Fitzgerald, of Pepperell.



Claire G. - December 02, 2024 at 08:57 PM

MF

“ This is such sad new, we are so sorry to hear of Don's passing, he was a gentleman. May you all have peace and comfort knowing he left behind a great model of what it is to be a good person. Lauren and Brody and Landon, we are so sorry. The Fox Family

Mary Fox - December 02, 2024 at 03:10 PM

EC

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

Elizabeth C. - December 02, 2024 at 05:54 AM

EC

“ My heart is heavy and my thoughts are with all of you as you say farewell and celebrate the life of an exceptional human being. When I met Donald his freshman year playing football, I was taken by his fun loving spirit, sense of humor and quick wit. He lived his life to the fullest, fought cancer with fierce determination, but mostly, loved his family and friends joyfully and loyally. Cherish every moment you were fortunate to have with him.

Peace and love Liza (Simkins) and Kevin Cronin

Elizabeth Cronin - December 02, 2024 at 05:44 AM

TK

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers of healing to your family and all that loved Don from the Kasidakos family. 🙏

Tammy Kasidakos - December 01, 2024 at 04:52 PM

DC

“ Dear Lisa,

Maryann and I are thinking of you and your family at this difficult time. So sorry for the loss of your brother Don. The obituary is striking and so well captures the spirit and life of your brother. Our prayers are with you, Tom and family.

Love, Don and Maryann Colanton

Don Colanton - December 01, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald, Jr..

November 30, 2024 at 01:19 PM

JD

“ Julie D’Amelio planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald F. Fitzgerald, Jr..

Julie D’Amelio - November 30, 2024 at 10:34 AM

JD

“ Julie D’Amelio purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Fitzgerald, of Pepperell.



Julie D’Amelio - November 30, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donald Fitzgerald, of Pepperell.



November 27, 2024 at 06:58 PM

MM

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

Mike & Linda Mailhot - November 27, 2024 at 05:28 PM

MM

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



Mike & Linda Mailhot - November 27, 2024 at 05:28 PM