



Donald James Voyles

November 23, 1955 - December 9, 2024

Donald James Voyles, 69, of Canton, MI, died at his home on December 9, 2024. He died after a 5-year battle with neuroendocrine tumors (a rare form of cancer).

Don was born in Detroit, MI on November 23, 1955, to Robert & Jacqueline Voyles. Don grew up in northwest Detroit with his older brother, and three sisters. He participated in many of the activities and sports sponsored by the neighborhood Youth Activity Council (YAC) and was a member of the boy scouts. Don attended Immaculate Heart of Mary church and grade school. In the 6th grade he transferred to public school. It was at Bow elementary in gym class where he met his future wife when he needed to pick a square dance partner. Who would have guessed that they would end up married and dancing through life together. He graduated from Henry Ford High School in 1973. Most of the weekends during his high school years he could be found working at The Lamplighter restaurant perfecting the art of making breakfast for the early morning or after-bar crowd. After high school he attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. During the summers he worked for Robertson Brothers Pool company and often recalls the time he flooded the ninth green at the Oakland Hills Country Club when cleaning their pool.

Don met his wife Beth in 6th grade but began a serious relationship their senior year of high school and they attended the prom together. They were married three years later June 11, 1976, and recently celebrated their 48th

anniversary. They began their married life in Marquette, MI where Don was finishing his college education, and their first home was in married housing. They made some wonderful friends during those college years and continue to gather with many of them yearly.

Don and Beth lived in the metropolitan Detroit area most of their lives. Their family grew with the addition of two children, Danielle and Billy. Don loved being a dad and was a wonderful father. He attended all their activities; dance recitals, school concerts, pompon performances, soccer games, baseball games, track – you name it he was there front and center. His love for his children has grown and is only matched by the love of his four grandchildren. They can bring a smile to him no matter what else is going on around him. Don began his career in Personnel Management (known later as Human Resources) with Portec in Novi, MI. Over the years he worked for several automotive suppliers with offices in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, India, Japan and Germany. While working full-time and raising a family Don returned to school and graduated with an MSA from Central Michigan University in 1992. Don ended his full-time career working for the Evangelica Presbyterian Church in 2017 as their director of benefits. Don wasn't quite ready for full-time retirement, so he became a consultant with Amy Cell Talent for the last 5 years.

Many weekends and evenings you could find Don refereeing both youth and adult soccer games. One Memorial Day weekend he refereed 18 games! He served on the board of the Canton Soccer Club for many years. When he was the field director, he often elicited help from his children and their friends to paint goal posts and line the fields. Not sure this was always the fastest or most effective way, but it taught them about community service. If Don wasn't on a field refereeing soccer he was probably in the stands at "The Big House" watching U of M football.

Don was a member of Canton's Merit Commission for several years in the 1990's. He was an active member of Ward Church and a member of the Journey Sunday School Class. He and his wife served as presidents of the

class for approximately ten years.

Over the years Don enjoyed golfing and traveling with family and friends. His work took him to many different locations and sometimes he was able to combine some leisure travel with work trips. One of those combo trips was to France. Don't ever volunteer to be the navigator in France because he might just fire you when you can't figure out which way to go because the highways don't designate north or south. He enjoyed many cruises, both to the Caribbean and on the Danube. Europe was a popular vacation destination for him. In 2016 the family took a trip to Scotland, and he had the opportunity to play golf at St. Andrews with Billy. Another great golf memory is playing golf at Pebble Beach, Spy Glass, Spanish Bay and The Hay with Billy in 2022.

When golfing and physical activity had to take a backseat, Don took up building with Legos. Some of the things he built were the U of M "Big House", a Corvette, a jeep Rubicon, and a McLaren. In his last weeks he built a green Lamborghini over FaceTime with his grandson Bo.

Don was at home in the kitchen. If you were looking for a good omelet, Don could fix you one of the best. He also showed his skills one year cooking a full Thanksgiving dinner. One of the family's favorite requests was for him to make a "Benihana" style dinner. Unlike the restaurant he had everything ready at the same time!

Don will be missed for his sense of humor, devotion to his family, and service to the community and church. Don accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and was baptized at First Baptist Church of Bad Axe in 1984. He served the Lord in various roles over the years, deacon, trustee, treasurer and Sunday School class president. He was an example to many of love and a caring positive attitude. Cancer did not win! He showed all of us how to face an illness with grace, dignity and determination.

Don is survived by his wife, Beth, his children, Danielle, and Billy (Lindsey), his grandchildren, Bo, Sunny, J.J., and Cody, his sisters Kathleen Voyles (John Prentice), Marjorie Knurick, and Anne Kinsler (Mike), and several

nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Jacqueline Voyles, and his brother John Voyles.

The family will gather with friends and exchange memories on Thursday December 12, 2024 from 4pm – 8pm at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home 46401 Ann Arbor Road West Plymouth. A memorial service will be held on Friday December 13, 2024 at 10 AM for a gathering with 11 AM service to follow at Ward Church 40000 Six Mile Rd, Northville. A brief period of visitation will precede the service from 10 -11am.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to LACNETS (Learn, Advocate, Connect, NeuroEndocrine Society). LACNETS is a nonprofit organization that provides support and information on diagnosis, treatment options, research, and resources for NET patients and caregivers. LACNETS has been an invaluable resource for our family on this journey. Donations can be made at WWW.LACNETS.ORG

To share a memory, please use the Share a memory tab on our webpage.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Memorial Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Ward Church
40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168

Tribute Wall



“ Vermeulen Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donald James Voyles



Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home - December 12, 2024 at 09:22 PM

LY

Apparently there is a technical glitch. The funeral home is aware and working to address it.

Lisa Yen - December 13, 2024 at 11:14 AM

LY

UPDATE from funeral home: the whole service webcast has been postponed an hour and will start at 8:50-9:00 Pacific time (11:50 eastern) in its entirety.

Lisa Yen - December 13, 2024 at 11:53 AM

BH

Will this be the livecast of the service? Would love to support the family virtually.

Brittany Henderson - December 13, 2024 at 04:06 PM

GO

maybe the webcast is not working

Gail Orr - December 13, 2024 at 04:13 PM

LH

Thank you for sharing with us virtually. A beautiful ceremony celebrating Don's life. May you find peace and comfort in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lori Hollinger - December 14, 2024 at 12:13 PM

TS

*Rest in peace and love Dear Don,
You were a real gentleman,
A cool, calm and knowledgeable mentor in the years we worked together at KOSTAL, USA & MEXICO.
Thank you for always being fair, and above all very witty,
God bless and Godspeed !!
Tom*

Tom stack - January 19, 2025 at 11:32 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Robert Smolak - January 11, 2025 at 11:37 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robert Smolak - January 11, 2025 at 11:31 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Robert Smolak - January 11, 2025 at 11:26 AM

MA

*Memory Eternal.
To the family & friends of Mr. Voyles, so sorry for your loss. I knew Mr. Voyles when he was the H.R. director at my workplace.*

Maria - January 12, 2025 at 12:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Robert Smolak - January 11, 2025 at 11:10 AM



*Don with Jim Rosenfeld (Butzel Long) at the Kostal Kontakt Systeme, Inc. Grand Opening.
Rochester Hills, 2011.*

Robert Smolak - January 11, 2025 at 11:12 AM

RS

“ I had the privilege of working with Don for a few years at Kostal of America, Inc. He was the ultimate professional: Tough but fair, a great leader and one of the best people I ever had the pleasure of working with. My heart and deepest sympathy goes out to his family who he so often spoke of with pride.



Robert Smolak - January 10, 2025 at 04:16 PM

GS

“ My condolences to Beth and the Voyles family. Don so selflessly gave his time and understanding to me and countless other NETs patients over the years. He will be deeply missed by our community. He was truly a power of example to us all.

Gwendolyn Sinclair - December 18, 2024 at 09:47 PM

KR

“ It has been such a pleasure to work with Don these past few years together at Amy Cell Talent. I feel blessed to have crossed paths with him and enjoy many conversations about his endless wealth of knowledge and experience in human resources. As he always used to end our video or phone calls, "Bye for now." - Kim

Kim Robinson - December 15, 2024 at 06:29 PM

DM

“ I am so sorry for your loss , Beth and family. Don was so warm towards me and my husband Joseph and I have the privilege of meeting him in person last November , but we knew him for almost 2 years before by weekly zoom meetings and the wisdom and courage and love that he gave us we will never forget as long as we live.

Dinorah Martinrez - December 13, 2024 at 01:20 PM

RW

“ I am so sorry to hear about Don. May his memory be for a blessing and may you find strength and comfort in the days to come.

Rosemary Watson - December 13, 2024 at 12:32 PM

JA

“ So sorry for your loss and so sad I didn't have more time to know Don. I just joined the LACNETs group a few months ago. So wish the trajectory of his disease had been different as he did, also.

*Best wishes to his loved ones during this most difficult of times.
Love to you.*

Jessica Ainsworth - December 13, 2024 at 11:21 AM

WC

“ Dear Danielle and family,
On behalf of the Baxter FP&A system team, please accept our deepest condolences for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you!
Wynn Cao

Wynn Cao - December 13, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.*



December 12, 2024 at 01:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald James Voyles.

December 12, 2024 at 01:03 PM



“ *My deepest condolences on your loss.*

LUIS CARLOS MUNOZ RAMIREZ - December 12, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to Don's family. Truly a genuine humble good man. I shall miss our conversations during his walks at Abbey Woods. JaneWatters*

Jane Watters - December 12, 2024 at 10:43 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.*



December 12, 2024 at 01:56 AM

ET

“ EY Evergreen Finance Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald James Voyles.



EY Evergreen Finance Team - December 11, 2024 at 09:27 PM

ET

“ EY Evergreen Finance Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald James Voyles.

EY Evergreen Finance Team - December 11, 2024 at 09:27 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.



December 11, 2024 at 06:11 PM

JM

“ Jerry & Angela Means purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald James Voyles.



Jerry & Angela Means - December 11, 2024 at 05:26 PM

JM

“ Jerry & Angela Means planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald James Voyles.

Jerry & Angela Means - December 11, 2024 at 05:26 PM

MG

“ Much love, Jason & Suzann Gourieux purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Donald James Voyles.



Much love, Jason & Suzann Gourieux - December 11, 2024 at 12:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.



December 11, 2024 at 11:41 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.



December 11, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald James Voyles.

December 11, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ Love, the Stratford Book Club purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald James Voyles.



Love, the Stratford Book Club - December 11, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ Love, the Stratford Book Club planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald James Voyles.

Love, the Stratford Book Club - December 11, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.



December 10, 2024 at 05:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald James Voyles.

December 10, 2024 at 05:54 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donald James Voyles.*



December 10, 2024 at 05:49 PM