



Lawrence Patrick McDonagh

January 11, 1941 - February 26, 2026

Lawrence Patrick McDonagh, age 85, of Canton, passed away on February 26, 2026.

Beloved husband of Lee (née Coluccio) McDonagh, Larry was the devoted and loving partner of his wife since their marriage on September 3, 1971.

Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and enduring love.

Born on January 11, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan, Larry was the son of the late Thomas and Anna McDonagh. He was raised in Lowellville, Ohio, where he graduated from Lowellville High School. He continued his education at Youngstown University and later at the University of Detroit, laying the foundation for a distinguished career in engineering.

Larry dedicated 36 years of professional service to Ford Motor Company, where he worked as a Mechanical Engineer from 1964 until his retirement in 2000. He valued hard work and took pride in his long career.

A devout Catholic, Larry was a faithful member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth. His faith was the cornerstone of his life. Larry generously gave of his time volunteering both at church and with Habitat for Humanity.

Above all, Larry was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his cherished children, David (Anne Tuveson) McDonagh and Cara (Todd Mercer) McDonagh. He was a proud and devoted grandfather to Olivia McDonagh, Dawson McDonagh, Nathan Mercer, and Andrew Mercer, who brought him immense joy.

He is also survived by his siblings: Dennis (Laurie) McDonagh, Mary Ellen Shutes, and William (Karen) McDonagh; and his brother-in-law, Vincent (Carol) Coluccio. He was preceded in death by his siblings James McDonagh, Thomas McDonagh, and Joyce McDonagh-Smalley.

Larry will be remembered for his steady presence, strong faith, and deep love for his family. In his free time, he enjoyed golfing and woodworking, hobbies that reflected both his patience and craftsmanship. Whether on the golf course, in his workshop, or surrounded by family, Larry found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments.

A gathering will be held Monday, March 9, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Road (at Beck), Plymouth, from 10:00 AM until the time of the Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fr. Solanus Casey Center, Attn: Br. Ben Joseph, Director, 1780 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207.

To share a memory, please use the "Share a Memory" tab on this webpage.

Previous Events

In state

MAR 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2852
(734) 453-0326

Funeral Mass

MAR 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
47650 N Territorial Rd
Plymouth, MI 48170-2852
(734) 453-0326

Tribute Wall

ET

“ Larry was a much loved part of our neighborhood garden parties for over 20 years. He and Lee opened their home and garden to our group and created beautiful memories for us. Prayers for them during this difficult time:

Ellen Thomas - March 07 at 03:16 PM

CM

Thank you! They both love your garden group!

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:16 PM

LM

Thank you, Ellen!

Lee McDonagh - March 09 at 07:06 PM

JP

“ Dear Lee and Family,

I feel obligated to say the traditional things you would say at a funeral, he will be missed, he was a great inspiration , he loved and talked abouts his wife and kids ,at least to me and he had a great laugh.

To me, he was my first mentor at Ford, I believed he came to learn that I was the first in my family to go to college. He not only helped me with planning my career at Ford but he also taught me about investing in the future, staying healthy (Larry was always worry about my health), helping me get my master degree and learning the importance of family versus career. I do not remember what program we worked on at all, I remember Larry.

When I was getting married I invited Larry and Lee to the wedding and reception. Larry and Lee could not come to the reception. I do not remember much at all what happened at the wedding except for one person I saw there that shocked me. It was Larry McDonagh seating in a pew.

I was spoiled at Ford , I had expected that all my bosses were going to be like Larry, that was not the case. As I attained a leadership position at Ford , I made sure that the people that worked for me , finished their education, I played matchmaker, I helped people stay heathy (I was a bad example) and reach their investment goals. I guess I tried to pass on what Larry did for me..

You and your family will be in my thoughts and prays, Joe Porcari

Joseph Porcari - March 07 at 10:44 AM

CM

Thank you so much for such kind comments and memories!

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:15 PM

LM

Joe, thank you for your comments about Larry. He really enjoyed working with all of you.

Lee McDonagh - March 09 at 07:10 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence Patrick McDonagh.*



March 03 at 03:40 PM

BC

“ *On behalf of the Capuchin friars, I offer condolences to the family and friends of Larry McDonagh. I pray for the repose of his soul, and that God's healing peace for comfort all those who mourn his death. The Capuchins are deeply grateful for memorial donations made to the Solanus Casey Center in Larry's memory.*



Br. Brenton Ertel OFM, Capuchin - March 03 at 09:42 AM

CM

Thank you!!

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:16 PM

EC

“ Larry will definitely be missed in this world where we need to keep good people like him. He was for sure a role model as husband, father, Ford worker and faithful christian.

Guido and I enjoyed many good times with him and Lee for dinners out and concerts at Kensington Park. Simple but so enjoyable.

We wish peace and comfort to the whole McDonagh family.

Guido and Eileen Campagna

Eileen Campagna - February 28 at 11:41 AM

CM

Thank you!!! I heard about the fun concerts that you all attended. ;)

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:17 PM

LM

Thank you Eileen. Doug and Lynn attended the funeral. We really appreciated having them with us.

Lee McDonagh - March 09 at 07:11 PM

KD

“ As the angels carry Larry into paradise, I pray not only for the repose of his soul, but also for you, Lee, and for all who mourn his loss. He left love in the world and his family and friends will carry that love forward.

Kathleen (Zajac) DiMarino
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Kathleen DiMarino - February 28 at 07:54 AM

CM

Thank you !!!

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:17 PM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Larry early in my career at Ford. I was young wet behind the ears engineer. The thing remember most about Larry was his easy-going demeanor. I found I could approach him anytime I had a question/issue and Larry was always willing to take the time answer and help. I had the utmost respect for him. My condolences to his wife and family. Larry was one of the good guys in the X-garage.

Dan Schneble - February 27 at 03:37 PM

CM

Thank you for your memories. So nice to hear...

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:19 PM

JL

“ Dear Lee & family,

Carole and I are very sorry to hear of the loss of Larry as he was such a good man. When first at Ford in their Grad. Training program I had an assignment to the Experimental Vehicles Building, Torino/Montego NVH Development in 1968 which is where I met Larry. I had the pleasure of working with him, working for him and spending many years at Ford while we were colleagues on various programs as well as developing a true and lasting friendship. As is noted in his obituary, he valued hard work and took pride in everything he did at Ford as well as with his home and for his family. I shall miss my association with him, even the challenge we posed to each other about maintaining a constant weight or who had the edge on the scales. The highlight of our association was when Larry agreed to stand up in our wedding on August 8, 1970. Had he not been there & met you, as I tried to relate at your 50th Anniversary Celebration, that gathering would have looked a whole lot different. Larry left a legacy as a devoted husband, a real fondness for his children and grandchildren and as a good Christian man. Those are qualities that any family man would do well to strive for.

JOHN C LITZELMAN - February 27 at 03:01 PM

CM

Thank you , Mr Litzelman! We're glad you introduced them and for your friendship.

Cara McDonagh - March 08 at 06:21 PM

CS

Dear Lee & Family,

I met Larry when we both worked in Light Vehicle Development in the X-Garage. He was a great example to all of us with his calm demeanor and quick smile. The great many good memories we shared warm my heart. He was an excellent example for all with his Christian approach to life. He was always willing to go the extra mile to help others. He will be missed by all who knew him. I pray that the Lord will comfort all of you for he has gone on to the reward Christ gives to all believers. We will see him again someday.

Carl Sillanpaa

Carl Sillanpaa - March 08 at 07:33 PM

CM

Thank you!!

Cara McDonagh - March 10 at 08:55 PM