



Wallace C. Donoghue

July 4, 1935 - July 17, 2018

Wallace Craven Donoghue, of Plymouth, passed peacefully at home on July 17, 2018, following a battle with ALS. Wally was born on July 4, 1935 in Boston, Massachusetts, to Lawrence Donoghue and Helen Craven. He graduated from Benson High School in Omaha, Nebraska, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Carnegie Tech University. He married Marlene Speer shortly after graduation.

Following a brief stint at Western Electric in Pittsburgh, Wally and Marlene moved to Plymouth in 1958, and Wally started a career with General Motors, working in the Noise and Vibration Laboratory and other design areas. In 1969, he left GM, and with Marlene established several successful small businesses: Plymouth Piano and Music Box Company, Safety First Flying Club, Dynamic Aviation, Great Lakes Instrument Service, Enthusiast's Garage, and Creative Health Products. Wally designed and manufactured the Slim Guide® Skinfold Caliper.

Wally loved everything mechanical and electrical. He was once described this way: if you ask Wally the time, he will tell you how to build a clock! He had a life-long interest in reproducing pianos, music boxes and other mechanical instruments, clocks and watches, and all things automobile. He owned and drove many classic cars and was active in the Classic Car Club of America from 1954 until his death, vacationing on more than 25 CCCA CARavans. He

served on several CCCA Committees and was the Michigan Region Director in 2006. He was the technical consultant for the Rolls Royce Phantom III Technical Society and delighted in helping fellow PIII owners figure out mechanical problems.

He was devoted to the family pets and there were frequently more dogs and cats (and a few exotic pets) in the house than was desired by Marlene.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Marlene, children Ann, David (Mia), and Amy, grandchildren Louis and Katina, 2 nephews and 4 nieces. He will be remembered for his large laugh and big smile, his curious mind and his keen intellect.

A Gathering of Remembrance will take place at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, on Saturday, July 21st from 2-5 PM with the "Curtain Call for Wally" at 4:45 PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Wally's name to the Plymouth Historical Society, <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/support-us/donate.html>

Friends of the Penn Theatre, <http://www.penntheatre.com/donation.html>
the Michigan Philharmonic, <https://michtix.com/organizations/567/donate> or
WRCJ-FM Radio, <https://be.wrcjfm.org/donate>.

To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Previous Events

Gathering of Remembrance

JUL 21. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Penn Theatre
760 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170

"Curtain Call for Wally"

JUL 21. 4:45 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Penn Theatre
760 Penniman Avenue
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall



“ Wallace C. Donoghue

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ I know. Its way after the fact, but needed help with a car problem and looked up wallys address ,only to find out he passed away two years ago. We did not keep up with each other, but about 50 years ago i traded wally a rolls royce for a steinway reproducing piano. Last time we talked, (4 or 5 years ago) he still had the car, ind i still have the piano today. I live in alabama, and he did visit me, and i him in plymouth.. we had planned to go to england together looking for rolls, but i did not make the trip. Just plain nice guy! Fred gielle albertville al

Fred. Gielle - April 09, 2020 at 12:06 PM



“ On behalf of Mark Tuttle Sr.'s family, Mark, Amy and I are so sad to hear about Wally's passing. He was such a dear friend to our Dad. Wally and my Dad shared numerous car adventures and stories for many, many years. In fact, Wally Donoghue has always been a very big part of our lives - even though we were in CA and he in Michigan. He and Marlene were there for us when our Dad passed away which we will be forever thankful. Wally will be missed greatly. Sending lot's of love, Lisa Tuttle Fisher

Lisa Fisher - March 21, 2019 at 12:05 PM

D(

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Don Hoffman Torque Photographer (ret) - July 22, 2018 at 01:18 PM

EW

“ Gary and I met Wally in 1985 shortly after we opened our business in Plymouth. He came in and talked a hundred miles a minute about all the opportunities in the health and fitness industry. I thought he would make a great used car salesman. As we came to know he and Marlene we realized they are all in on everything they do. We will miss him. The world and our lives are the better for having had him in it.

Elise Walley - July 21, 2018 at 01:22 PM

KJ

“ Wally and Marlene welcomed us into their home, and always had a wonderful smile to share. We will miss Wally and all of the times spent discussing his collection of music boxes and player pianos. His curiosity was truly inspiring. He will be forever in our thoughts and prayers.

---Karl, Raffaele, Alessandra, and Aniella

Karl Jepsen - July 21, 2018 at 09:44 AM

PT

“ Proud to have known Wally as a vendor and friend. Always such a class act, tremendous businessman, and a wonderful human being. We will miss him but know he is OK and that he is watching over us all. Condolences and much love to Marlene and family. Paul T.

Paul Trodd - July 20, 2018 at 01:18 PM

MO

“ Wally was so kind and always had a story to tell with a warm smile. He was a father figure you could count on for life advice and help if you ever needed it (like a car jump)!! I feel blessed to have worked with him and he will be greatly missed.

My heart goes out to Marlene, Amy, and the rest of the Donoghue family.

Molly

Molly - July 20, 2018 at 08:54 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wallace C. Donoghue.



July 19, 2018 at 05:17 PM

PP

“ Kindness of heart, goodness in spirit, laughter of voice and friend to all.

We are blessed to have such a beautiful lifetime memory of Wally.

Joe and Pat Pitts

Patricia Pitts - July 19, 2018 at 04:09 PM

LL

“ You have my sincere condolences with Wally’s passing. I called to offer congratulations for the 42 years of Creative Health Products and how much I have enjoyed our visits. The lunches at Carl’s Cabin have been a real highlight for me including the most important part being shared desserts.

Larry

Larry Larsen - July 19, 2018 at 01:02 PM



“ When I first met Uncle Wally, he, you both, welcomed us with open arms and we stayed with you for a really lovely holiday. Uncle Wally loved engineering and he showed us his cars that he was restoring including a model T4, and the amazing pianola, which he played and more. He really made us feel so incredibly welcome and was so kind to us. I remember Uncle Wally as a kind of grown up toy restorer.

An amazing man, and an amazing Uncle.

My love to you all.

Debs Payne - July 19, 2018 at 12:36 AM

PO

“ Dear Marlene,
I remember in Milford at the funeral of Speed Foster, Nov. 2011, My husband Howard, a ALS patient, was there. You had never met him before, but he remembered the kindness you and Wally showed him that evening.
May your faith and memories help you through this difficult time
Pat Oldford

pat Oldford - July 18, 2018 at 09:11 PM

MN

“ Wally was “Uncle” to Sean and Kim and brother-in-law to me. As mentioned by others he was always engaged, thoughtful, had commentary to offer and a big smile.

We last saw Wally and Marlene in Germany in 2013 which reflects both of their willingness to travel and try out new things.

My sincere condolences to all of Wally's family. Marilyn

marilyn newman - July 18, 2018 at 07:29 PM

TG

“ I first met Mr. Donoghue in the early 70s when I became friends with Ann. He was always nice to me. Always had a smile. Always took time to answer my questions on life and how things worked. Wonderful piano player. Let me work his player piano because I wasn't. Allowed Ann to have more than one cat which was a revolution because my family only ever had one. He was our chauffeur during our junior prom and we rode in one of his antique cars. He sold me a car once..1972 Buick Lesabre. I think that was the biggest car I ever owned. The car's only problem was it was MSU green and not UM blue. During high school, the Donoghue's hosted marching band parties and Mr. Donoghue was right there making sure we had enough pizza and pop. Mr. Donoghue was like a second dad to me. I will always cherish the memories of knowing Mr. Donoghue. My condolences to the Donoghue family.

TGS - July 18, 2018 at 05:03 PM

PL

“ Sally and I have wonderful memories of CCCA tours together over many years. Rest in peace, Wally.....Paul and Sally Loree

Paul Loree - July 18, 2018 at 04:05 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Wallace C. Donoghue.



July 18, 2018 at 03:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wallace C. Donoghue.*



July 18, 2018 at 03:13 PM



“ *The flood of memories of Mr Donoghue are always accompanied by a chuckle..., driving me and Amy around, puttering around the house or garage, and so many more. The last time I saw him, at one of the DSO neighborhood concerts with Mrs Donoghue and Amy, he had that same smile and happy expression that I remembered from years before.*

Mary

Mary Lindamood DVM - July 18, 2018 at 02:10 PM



“ *On behalf of the entire Ripp Family, we would like to express our sincere condolences to Marlene, Amy, and the entire Donoghue family on the passing of Wally. We feel privileged on having known such a wonderful, kind, gentle, and knowledgeable man. Please take comfort knowing Wally will be forever remembered fondly by his many friends and associates. Rest in peace dear Wally.*

Robert and Bernie Ripp

Robert Ripp - July 18, 2018 at 12:14 PM