



Donald John Cotton

February 22, 1937 - February 15, 2021

Donald John Cotton, 83, a lifelong resident of Kalkaska, passed away suddenly at home on Monday, February 15, 2021. He was born on February 22, 1937 at home, son to the late Raymond and Phebe (Dunlap) Cotton. Don has left a legacy that was built on family, farm, and community. He married Barbara Jane Barr on August 8, 1970 and together they raised their two boys Bruce and Douglas. Don took a lot of pride in his farm and was honored when both of his boys shared his passion and continued to work and build the farm he loved. Don served on multiple Kalkaska County boards through the years, and especially enjoyed his 42 years on the Zoning Board which he served many of them as chairman. He was a great mentor and will be remembered for his humble, mild mannered attitude and how the foundation of his life was honesty. He liked to travel, often commenting on all the miles he had driven and that he had visited 49 states, only missing Hawaii. During his retirement, Don would still frequent the farm to instill wisdom; while still finding time for his old tractors and farming memorabilia. He loved his boys and his grandkids dearly. He will be greatly missed by those who survive him; his wife of 50 years Barbara; sons Bruce (Kim) and Douglas (Nina) Cotton; grandchildren Olivia, Lane, and Jonathan; sisters Margaret Ritenburgh, Beth (Myron) Priest, and Jane Werner; and brother Glenn (Norma) Cotton. He was preceded in death by his parents. Visitation will be Monday, February 22, 2021 from 5-8 pm at the Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene. Funeral Services will be at Noon on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 with one hour of visitation prior to the service

at Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene with Pastor William Kuiper presiding. Burial will take place in the spring at Excelsior Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made in Don's honor to Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene or Evergreen Bible Baptist Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

The service will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Please click the link at the bottom of our main page or follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd5ytWq5FzfG45UOfMJwqFw>

Cemetery Details

Excelsior Township Cemetery

1225 CR 571
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene
1367 W Kalkaska Rd
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Service

FEB **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Church of the Nazarene
1367 W Kalkaska Rd
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

EW

“ Dear Barb and Family,

You may not remember me but I remember you well during the many years I worked at "the bank" in Kalkaska. I have many fond memories, even after the years I've been in S.D. Don, you and your family were/are such quality, kind and caring people and I still consider it a privilege to have known you. I'm thankful for the friendly visits and the Christ-like character that you lived out every time I interacted with you!

Sending hugs and prayers for each of you. . . Hold on to God's promise that as believers, we will see Don again!

With my sincere sympathy,

Eila J. Edwards Wiegman (& Tony)

Eila J Wiegman - February 24, 2021 at 08:55 PM

DF

“ We're so saddened to hear of Don's passing. We are thankful, however, that we were able to see him this past summer. He was a good neighbor and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. May God comfort you during this time of loss.

Doug and Sharon Fry - February 24, 2021 at 12:36 PM

EP

“ Don was a special big brother to our family. We will miss him. He was always ready to supply the answers to questions of the history of the family and the area.

Beth (Cotton) Priest

Elizabeth Priest - February 20, 2021 at 01:21 PM

RO

“ Barb, Bruce & Kim, Doug and Nina and all the grandchildren, we are so sorry for your loss. Don was huge in all your lives, but know he was huge in many lives throughout the community of Kalkaska and beyond. He cared so much for each of you and he was so proud of each of your accomplishments. He was proud that his sons wanted to continue his legacy of farming. He spoke so highly of Granddaughter Olivia and her success at farming as well. Don was dedicated to his community and served in many capacities in county service. We have been blessed to know the Cotton family for many, many years and happy to call them our friends. They have been steadfast in their faith and service to the Lord. We know this is a void in your family that cannot be filled, but you have so many people praying for you all, and friends to help through this difficult time. You have so many wonderful memories that will help to sustain each of you and they will help in the days, weeks and months going forward. Know we are here if there is anything we can do to help in any way. May God Bless each of you! Rest in peace Don until we all meet again.

Will & Patty Rodgers

Rodgers - February 20, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 20, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ *Tim, Amelia, Ross, Dean, Cade, and Holt Poppy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



Tim, Amelia, Ross, Dean, Cade, and Holt Poppy - February 19, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ *Our condolences to Mrs. Cotton, Bruce, Doug and family. May the Lord be praised for this earth is not the end. Rom. 14:8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*
With prayers and sympathy,
Tim and Amelia Poppy

Tim Poppy - February 19, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 19, 2021 at 01:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 19, 2021 at 12:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 19, 2021 at 12:42 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 19, 2021 at 12:38 PM



“ *Will truly miss Don. He was a very caring person. Mark and I will miss our conversations with him. Prayers for the family.*

Mark Vedder - February 19, 2021 at 09:21 AM

AJ

“ *Al Jordan lit a candle in memory of Donald John Cotton*



Al Jordan - February 18, 2021 at 05:59 PM

DF

“ *Dr. Alicia Eby & the TC Eye Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



Dr. Alicia Eby & the TC Eye Family - February 18, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 18, 2021 at 01:01 PM

NC

“ *Sorry for your loss. God sure blessed him with a beautiful and kind family.*

Nancy Cross - February 18, 2021 at 10:08 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



February 18, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ *Gary & Julie purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donald John Cotton.*



Gary & Julie - February 17, 2021 at 04:54 PM