



Mr. Donald Ray Creech

July 31, 1974 - January 2, 2023

Donald Ray Creech, age 48, married for 24 years to Katrina (Linder) Creech of Phoenixville, PA, passed away on Monday, January 2, 2023 in the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Born on July 31, 1974 in Raleigh, NC, he was the son of Sheila C., wife of Clyde Stevens of Raleigh, NC and the late Shannon R. Creech.

Don was a 1992 graduate of Garner Senior High School in Garner, NC. He received his Associate's degree from the Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, NC, and furthered his education at North Carolina State University. Don began his career as a research scientist at Burroughs Wellcome & Company, and through several mergers he worked for Glaxo Wellcome and most recently for GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

Don was first and foremost a proud and dedicated father and family man. He attended all of his son Tyler's soccer games and events, often photographing the entire team to share as fond memories. The family trips to Disney World and Disneyland over the years left memories that will be cherished for a lifetime. He had an unforgettably warm, infectious, and contagious smile that he shared with all he met. Everybody was a friend, and nobody was a stranger. He enjoyed meeting new people, and giving of himself and his knowledge while expecting nothing in return.

Don was an enthusiastic fan of NC State Wolfpack athletics, where he had lifetime seats in Carter-Finley Stadium to attend the football games. He enjoyed tailgating, and in addition to cooking in general, he had an affinity for grilling and smoking meat. He was an avid fisherman, both in freshwater lakes near home and deep-sea fishing in the Outer Banks with his close-knit groups of fishing buddies. He was a member of the Garner Senior High Marching Band, All State Band and Concert Band where he was a gifted trumpet player. Don also enjoyed camping and riding his Harley.

In addition to his wife, Don is survived by one son, Tyler R. Creech at home; one sister, Michelle C., wife of Matthew Morrison of Raleigh, NC; Katrina's parents, Vaughn and Colleen Linder of Lawrenceville, PA; one sister-in-law, Kimberly L., wife of Jason Keir of Clinton, MS; nephew and niece, Gavin and Kyla Keir; many Aunts, Uncles, cousins and countless friends; and his loving dog, Ziggy.

Funeral services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society by visiting www.cancer.org/donate. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *To Katrina, Tyler and the respective families - my sincere condolences - so sad to hear this news of Don's passing. Thinking of you all.*

Dave Morris - January 22, 2023 at 10:47 AM

MO

“ *Words cannot express how saddened we are to learn of your loss. Please take your time. We are all here for you.*

Mike Ouellette

Mike Ouellette - January 11, 2023 at 08:36 AM

LJ

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. It was always a pleasure working with Don. Katrina and Tyler, Don talked about you all of the time! He was so proud of you both. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers and have my deepest condolences. Don will be missed.*

Laura Johnston

Laura Johnston - January 10, 2023 at 12:41 PM

JC

“ *Katrina and Tyler, I am so sorry for your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Prayers for comfort during this difficult time.*

Julie Cox - January 09, 2023 at 11:06 AM

RS

“ Although we did not know you, your sister Michelle is very dear to us and she loved you very very much. We mourn your passing but know you are at peace and without pain.

Rita Simonetta and Bill Studabaker

Rita Simonetta - January 07, 2023 at 11:40 AM

MM

Thank you for your kind words Rita & Bill ❤️

Michelle Morrison - January 09, 2023 at 09:35 PM

LR

“ Dear Sheila, Katrina, Tyler, Michelle and Clyde,
I was so sorry to hear of Don's passing. I knew Don had been making a valiant effort to recover so that he could be with you and with his extended family. My thoughts are with all of you at this sorrowful time. Don will be missed.

*Regards,
Lisa Ross and family*

Lisa Ross - January 07, 2023 at 10:31 AM

FW

“ So sorry for your loss, Katrina. My sincerest condolences are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Feng Wang

Feng Wang - January 06, 2023 at 04:49 PM

CM

“ Katrina, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Wishing you comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Carli Monostra

Carli Monostra - January 06, 2023 at 03:36 PM

AH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Don was the nicest guy. I loved chatting with him at work. He always had the warmest smile and sweet demeanor. He will be missed.

Ashleigh Hahn - January 06, 2023 at 02:40 PM

LL

“ I've struggled for a couple of days on what to say and I'm sure I still dont have the right words to describe Big Don other than to say he was a fantastic guy. If you had the honor of knowing him, you had a friend for life. For those he didnt have a chance to meet him, you missed out on someone special. From the Raleigh DMC days he was surely a blessing to be around. Him and my wife teasing each other about her making his vest and according to her, what great hugs he gave.

To the family and the son he was so proud of, I'm truly sorry for your loss but losing.him was a loss for the world. Ride on Big Don.

Lance & Melinda Lassiter

Lance Lassiter - January 06, 2023 at 02:23 PM

MM

Thank you for the kind words Lance. He enjoyed his time with DMC and I am proud to have been able to ride!

Michelle Morrison - January 07, 2023 at 12:02 AM

MM

Also known as Don's little sister

Michelle Morrison - January 07, 2023 at 12:04 AM

EN

“ *Hi Katrina, with heartfelt sympathy. So sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Eldridge Narthey*

Eldridge Narthey - January 06, 2023 at 01:24 PM

BW

“ *Don spearheaded one of my best experiences coaching soccer when I got to go to 3v3 Nationals with Tyler and our 2005 Boys. Don made sure we had fun on and off the field, planning a trip to Disney World for the team and always bringing positive vibes! You will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to meet you and especially missed in the soccer community. My heartfelt condolences to Katrina and Tyler. I feel blessed to have experienced first hand the love Don had for his family and friends.*

Brendon Weinhardt - January 06, 2023 at 01:12 PM

PR

“ *My deepest condolences to you and your family Katrina. I will keep you in my prayers and wish you peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

Paru Rao - January 06, 2023 at 11:42 AM

TJ

“ *My deepest sympathy Katrina to you and your family. Know that many GSK colleagues and I will keep all of you in our prayers during this trying time and are here to support you in any way.*

Tony Jurewicz - January 06, 2023 at 11:20 AM

BW

“ *Bin Wu purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. Donald Ray Creech.*



Bin Wu - January 06, 2023 at 09:28 AM

MT

“ *May God keep you close in comfort during this difficult time. My prayers go out to you. Monique Thompson*

Monique M Thompson - January 06, 2023 at 08:09 AM

KV

Dear Katrina,

My heart goes out to you during this difficult time. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort in memories you shared with Don and allow the love from all of us at GSK lift you in this time of loss and grief.

Kalindi Vaidya - January 06, 2023 at 08:50 PM

JT

“ *Our hearts ache for your family during this time. Don's light shown on everyone who knew him. That light will be deeply missed along with his friendship. Take comfort in knowing how much he meant to do many. We are thinking of you and praying for you during these difficult times . John and Pat Tantum*

John Tantum - January 05, 2023 at 10:18 PM

SS

Thank you for your kind words John and Pat

Sheila Stevens - January 10, 2023 at 08:01 PM

LM

“ Don and I shared both the love of soccer and photography together. Talked a lot about this during both practices and games for our sons. I have missed this since now they are not playing in the same team anymore. You will always stay in my memory as a fantastic person to be around, easy going and welcoming.

Lennie Malmgren - January 05, 2023 at 03:25 PM

GA

Don and I were friends. He told me all the cool places to go at Disney. We had bbq lunches and wonderful conversations about kids and life. I'll never forget him and I sincerely am so sorry for your loss.

George Alkire - January 05, 2023 at 06:30 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Ray Creech.



January 05, 2023 at 03:20 PM

JT

“ We remember that Don painted some of our rooms inside our house years ago, and he was so friendly and engaging and really did an excellent job. He was very careful to keep things neat and tidy. We really enjoyed having him around. We are so very sorry to hear this very sad news. Jackie and Basil Talley

Jacqueline Talley - January 05, 2023 at 02:55 PM

SS

Thank you for these memories Jackie and Basil

Sheila Stevens - January 10, 2023 at 08:02 PM