



## Donald E. Mitchell

September 27, 1955 - February 13, 2015

Donald E. Mitchell, age 59, husband of Barbara L. (Phillips) Mitchell, of Royersford, PA, died peacefully at home after an eight month battle with cancer on Friday morning, February 13, 2015. Born in Ridley Park, PA, he was a son of Eleanor J. (Remington) Gillespie, of Ridley Park, PA and the late Russell Mitchell. He was a graduate of the Ridley High School and the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. He worked as a network engineer for Verizon for 24 years until his recent illness. Don was loved by all those around him and will be missed by many.

In addition to his wife of 35 years, Mr. Mitchell is survived by two daughters: Melissa J. Mitchell, fiancée of Marc A. Brenner, of Royersford, PA; Stephanie M. Mitchell, of Pottstown, PA; one grandson: Lucas M. Ortiz; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his father, Mr. Mitchell was pre-deceased by one brother: Russell Mitchell.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the memorial service at the Cattermole-Klotzbach Funeral Home, 600 Washington Street, Royersford, PA on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 3PM. Friends will be received from 2-3PM Monday afternoon at the funeral home. Burial will be held privately at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in his name to the "Donald E. Mitchell Memorial Fund", C/O Phoenixville Federal, 70 North Lewis Road, Royersford, PA 19468. This account will be

used to further the education of Don's grandchildren. The video tribute may be viewed and condolences may be made by visiting [www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com](http://www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 16. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home

600 Washington Street

Royersford, PA 19468

(610) 948-7330

<https://CattermoleKlotzbachFuneralHome.com/>

## Service

FEB 16. 3:00 PM (ET)

Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home

600 Washington Street

Royersford, PA 19468

(610) 948-7330

<https://CattermoleKlotzbachFuneralHome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



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**Brian Coffey** - February 21, 2015 at 06:49 PM

BC

“ *Don is going to be greatly missed. Through the years, working with Don was always a pleasure. I learned more about Power and how to handle many Power related situations from Don than any of the schools, classes, or seminars I attended. Don could explain things so they would be understood. He was always willing to help whenever he could, and I never heard a cross word, or ever remember him getting frazzled or upset with any situation. He always managed to figure out any problem he was confronted with. I wish that had been the case with the Cancer that got to him. Through the years I have remained friends with Don and his entire family, and plan on keeping in contact with them. I was fortunate enough to be able to share some "party" times as well as work times with the family as their DJ. These are some of the "good times" I will remember fondly.*

*Gonna miss you Buddy!*

*DJ Bobby C. Bob Covotta*

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**Bob Covotta** - February 19, 2015 at 03:52 PM

JH

“ Dear Barb and family, I was so sad to hear about Donny...I am so very sorry. I remember the days of hanging at the lake and just truly laughing and just enjoying life. He will be missed by many. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.



*Rest in Peace Donny,*

*Joanne (Murtha) Hart*

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**Joanne Murtha Hart** - February 18, 2015 at 07:32 AM

JD

“ Rest in peace Don. All those who grew up on the streets around Fizzano's woods learned good things and bad things tromping through those acres we treated worse than our own. I smoked my first cigarette at 8 years old at a "fort" that some who have posted here were building in the woods... What a great part of growing up the woods were for four season tom foolery.. Brian Coffey once "accidentally" helped me through frozen ice of the apartments pool in the dead of winter..Helped me into the water that is! Had to walk home in frozen pants.. All part of growing up and as long as we survived, all was okay..

*I am five years younger than Don and my brother Bill Donahue was one of Don's friends. I remember plenty great smiles and laughs from Don and some of the great cars and motorcycles the older guys had...*

*Great guy, great memories, so sorry that his family and friends have lost Don so early.*

*God Bless - John Donahue*

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**John Donahue** - February 17, 2015 at 06:08 PM

MB

*I deny this slanderous and defamatory allegation. This is what happens when you try to be a good Samaritan. Everyone know I was a good kid just trying to help my fellow man.*

**Myron Bicklebaum** - June 19, 2015 at 03:25 PM

PG

“*Barbara and girls, I am so very sorry for your loss of such a wonderful Husband, Father, and Grandfather. Having had the pleasure of meeting you all 20 years ago this month, when we moved next door to "Mrs. B.G." , as my boys called Don's Mom, we were always so impressed by the care and attention he gave to his Mother and brother, Russ. Mrs.B.G. often commented that "no matter how busy he was he found time to come and visit." Don never failed to say Hi and take the time to chat. The tributes to Don, written here, are such a beautiful and loving testament to the wonderful man he was.*

*We feel blessed to have had met and chatted with Don, if even in passing, when he came to see his Mom.*

*Please know that we will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time*

*Pam and Tom Guld Ridley Park, Pa*

**Pamela and Tom Guld** - February 16, 2015 at 09:24 PM

DS

“ Barbara & Family, so sorry for your loss. It seems like yesterday when I flew to RI to spend the day with Don and try to determine if I wanted to move there and start a new life. My wife Carla & I were blessed to have the years with Don & your family while you were here in RI. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



*Dave & Carla Simons*

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**Dave Simons** - February 16, 2015 at 03:08 PM

JS

“ My condolences to Dons family, I enjoyed working with Don over the years and am proud to call him a friend. He was the definition of a Good Guy. Don will be greatly missed.

*Jim O'Connor Sr*

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**Jim O'Connor Sr** - February 16, 2015 at 10:39 AM

RR

“ Don will be missed by all. A man of great character, a friends friend. My condolences to the family.

*Rich  
Reuschling*

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**Rich Reuschling** - February 16, 2015 at 09:10 AM

DV

“ I only knew Don a few short years. During this time, he was assigned to my Team at Verizon. He proved to be one of the most knowledgeable members of my organization and established himself as our "go to person" to help solve the many challenges in the area where he worked. Don always gave of himself to help his peers and co-workers, freely offered his experience and knowledge, and always had a kind and professional demeanor.



Don was always well liked and respected by those he worked with and will be missed in many ways. It was my pleasure to have him on my Team, to have worked with him and to have experienced personally his commitment, dedication and professionalism.

My condolences go out to Barbara & the Mitchell family - you are in my thoughts and prayers. Please be comforted in knowing that Don was a great man who touched many of us and that the Verizon Team has lost one of our great ones - a peer, co-worker and friend.

~ Dominic Veltri, Verizon

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Dominic Veltri - February 16, 2015 at 08:34 AM

RS

“ I had the honor of working with Don as a Power, Space and Frame Engineer during my time at Verizon. Very generous with his time and knowledge. He taught me a lot. I will always remember his love of basketball and his love of music. A very intelligent man, an honorable man and a humble man. He will be missed.

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Ray Shipley - February 16, 2015 at 06:58 AM

TD

*Throughout our lives we cross paths with many people from all walks of life. Often, we are blessed with meeting people who are truly genuine and make a lasting impression. Whether it's in the business environment or through personal relationships when we meet a genuine caring person we hold those individuals and relationships in high regards!*

*Don was one of those individuals. When I think of Don, following words come to mind.....*

*-True –Don was true to his words*

*-Sincere – Don was sincere in his mannerisms*

*-Honest –Don was honest and a man of integrity*

*-Open – Don was open and accepting to all even during his brief illness*

*-Real- Don was just a real genuine person*

*I first met Don in the 90's when he first started with the company..... he was the power Guru!*

*I truly enjoyed working with Don. One of my funniest memories about Don is when he ran out of gas driving to a meeting. He thought he had it calculated correctly so he ignored the needle which was one E thinking he should have enough gas. He decided not to stop at the gas station which he told me he blew by so he could make the meeting on time. He was always concerned about others and was always a team player. He enjoyed what he did and loved to help others!*

*Over the past 24 years, our careers took us down different paths but we stayed in touch! I was fortunate again the past two years to once again work directly with Don and was looking forward to a long lasting relationship, but unfortunately the Lord had other plans!*

*I find it ironic that I was blessed to work with Don when he first came on board, and we were once again reunited before he was called home!*

*I'll miss you Don!*

*Tony DiPaolo*

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**Tony DiPaolo** - February 16, 2015 at 08:21 AM

MM

“ I met Donnie through Scot and my sister Lisa. Although we didn't spend a lot of time together, I remember Donnie as a wonderfully warm and funny guy. He was truly a devoted family man. Scott has shared what a special relationship he had with his grandson Lucas. I'm sending hugs to Barb, Stephanie and Melissa during this difficult time.

*Maryann Montgomery and family*

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**Maryann Montgomery** - February 15, 2015 at 09:53 PM

RC

“ I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to Don's Family. I have had the great privilege of working with Don over the years and consider myself very fortunate to have known such a genuine guy. Don will truly be missed.

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**Robert Campbell** - February 15, 2015 at 09:02 PM

MP

“ Wow! Can not believe this...We did have great memories with our children ..the love that he shared with my son is something that my son will always treasure.. My son is a better man today with the help of raising him...it takes a village to raise ur children n that we did...My condolences to the family...My heart is so heavy with tears...

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**Mercedes Pruitt** - February 15, 2015 at 12:24 PM



“ *Real talk. When I was in high school my family moved out the city into the suburbs of Exeter. In those days I must admit wasn't very many black people at all, it was different. I eventually met a girl who became my girlfriend All thru out high school. We had a good relationship but looking back on it the best thing about our relationship was her parents. I often wondered to myself how they could be so loving and generous. Letting this black kid from the city go thru their fridge, take me on vacation, even let me spend the night or be my second my parents when I wasn't getting along with mine. I often wondered how my girlfriends dad could take on the responsibility of having two daughters yet being so silly and goofy with them. I noticed that those girls loved their dad, he was everything to them and I never seen him really Handle a situation the wrong way, very understanding dude. Finding out today that Mr Mitchell lost his life to cancer really hit me hard. I cried this morning. That man meant and taught me so much the 4 to 5 years I really got to spend with them. A good man, a good friend and a great dad. You will be forever missed. Today will be a sad day for me.*

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**Harry Armstrong Durham** - February 15, 2015 at 12:05 PM

BC

“ Who knew these boards had limits or that you'd run out of space. I can't be finished without writing about what a solid guy Don was, a good friend, and how important he and Barbara were as friends over these many years. Although we all followed our own paths that went in every possible direction, those two were always there over the many years, the reliable friends who although you may not see one another for years, one call and you just picked up wherever you left off. Not to mention that they were together all these years, a stable couple through good times and bad, since high school. Same with Don's Mom, over all these years, you were still welcome at her home.

So many good memories, so much we've all lost, so much we all have to be thankful we experienced, especially the unwavering constancy of Don and Barb's friendship.

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**Brian Coffey** - February 15, 2015 at 11:25 AM

BB

“ Wow. Don was one of the greatest friends a kid from the slums of Leedom could have. For years his family was wonderful to me: trips to Ocean City to the fraternity house, meals, weekend sleepovers. I am sad for Barb and her family as well as for his mom, dad and brother Russ. What a great group of people! Although I have always lived so far away and lost track over the years, "the Squirm" was an amazing friend to me and I am sad that I won't have the chance to rekindle that friendship again. God bless you Barb and kids as you deal with this painful time. Bob Bruno

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**Bob Bruno** - February 15, 2015 at 07:46 AM



Stephanie  
Mitchell

“ *My dad was the greatest father and grandfather! Anyone who met him, even briefly, knew he was an awesome guy. He meant so much to this family. I'm so thankful to have everything he has taught me. Living with three women, he put up with alot, (thats saying it lightly), but he always kept his cool and was there for us. He will be forever loved and missed! Im beyond honored to call you my dad. And lucas will always remember the best Pop he could ever have. I love you, Dad!*

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**Stephanie Mitchell** - February 14, 2015 at 10:29 PM

“ How do you share your memories about someone who has been a friend since almost the time of your first memory through *50 Shades of Gray*, our hair and the movie? Don is the only person with whom I've traversed the past 50 plus years. When we were kids, we played let's pretend with matchbox cars, Little League for the RPBC Bears – he was an all star pitcher – bought baseball cards at Effie and Walt's, then flipped them against the steps as we chewed the gum and drank Rose Valley soda. We played Muckle in the Sterling's yard when we weren't otherwise ruining Ted's lawn as we kicked imaginary commie ass pretending we were the Men from Uncle.

*The Fizzanos had the misfortune of being at the end of our street but the epicenter of our (mis)adventures until we allegedly grew up. So, we continued playing The Man from Uncle and practiced our World War 2 reenactments (along with our own invention – the invisible shield that was bulletproof) at all the hotspots – Indian Rock; Monkey Island and butt log before it was so named.*

*In the summer evenings, in front of his house was the place to be after his Father put up a basketball net and backboard on the telephone pole. During the day we were very busy down Fizzanos looking for salamanders and crayfish or fishing stoney creek sitting on a log across the creek with a cut square of window screening with string tied on the corners so you could yank it up quickly when minnows swam over it. Winter was sledding down Fizzanos driveway and hills. We were the kids we all hate, up on a hill high above the road throwing snowballs down at the traffic on Chester Pike – here comes a bus!!!*

*Inevitably, there were scores to settle in our suburban neighborhood, and as the neighborhood preteens, it was our job to settle them. So after ringing doorbells, we'd hide in shrubbery so we could watch the dog poop in-a-bag fire dance and front doors were egged as retribution, recall Don was an all star pitcher, boom, boom, boom on an aluminum storm door. It wasn't pretty, it was just how*

*we rolled back in the day.*

*We got to the age where the hubris and parallel stupidity of being teenagers led us to hanging out at butt log on the way home from school – it's where we all learned to smoke. We gathered at butt log after school pretty much everyday, deluded in our pretension that there was some equivalency between smoking and mature sophistication, as if butt log was our pubescent version of the Algonquin Round Table when in reality we looked more like Fred and Barney smoking during the end credits of the Flintstones.*

*No expression of my memories of Don would be complete without mention of his trying to dance although he was a white teenager in white bread suburbia. It's burned into my memory, the one time I saw Don dancing – of a sort anyway. I remember playing albums on his stereo in that back room in his house and he put on the Temptations, I think it was Psychedelic Shack and that skinny white boy, with arms and legs too long for the rest of him, went into hyper motion, arms going this way, legs going that way singing along with the song: Psychedelic shack, that's where it's at; Psychedelic shack, that's where it's at; People let me tell you about a place I know; To get in it don't take much dough. Carry that vision around with you for over 40 years.*

*Fizzanos was where we learned to smoke and drink, lurching and fumbling our way through our teens until Don grew up, got a job at Alex's Texaco and bought that sweet yellow 66 chevelle convertible. Barbara and his kids, his Mom, his Dad, his brother Russell, there's so much more to remember and laugh about and recall what a really great guy he was.*

*As George said so well in his post, Don will always be in our thoughts and memories from all the good times we had getting here.*

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**Brian Coffey** - February 14, 2015 at 05:37 PM

JD

“ My oh my so many memories with a good friend and his family. We had so many laughs and down right good times. Boy those late night chats what fun. As the years went on watching ourselves and our children grow up, reminiscing about our adventures together and apart. Don was a wonderful, loving husband, father and a great Pop to his grandson Lucas, who he adored deeply. Don was a gentle kind man with simple thoughts of life. In the past six months we spent time with Don and Barb cherishing every moment hoping he was having fun and enjoying himself. We will always carry him in our hearts and minds. As we go forward our devotion to Barb and the family will be everlasting. P.S. Hey Don someday we will meet up with you down in the Keys. Love, Jim and Joyce Daly

Jim and Joyce Daly - February 14, 2015 at 04:37 PM



“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - February 14, 2015 at 11:54 AM

JP

“ Jenn Preston lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Mitchell



Jenn Preston - February 14, 2015 at 11:42 AM

TM

“ As they say. "He was one of the good ones" I have known Don for many years and recently had the honor of working along side him for the last two years. My thoughts and prayers are with Barb and the family.

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**Timothy Malavasi** - February 14, 2015 at 08:37 AM

DM

“ So sad to have this happen to a great guy, good Father, husband, grandfather and friend to all who knew Donnie. God Bless -



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**Donald Mattiford** - February 14, 2015 at 08:26 AM

GS

“ George Shallis lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Mitchell



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**George Shallis** - February 13, 2015 at 05:33 PM

GS

“ Dear Barb and family. We were very sad to hear of Don's passing. A recent visit seemed to show him to be mobile and in good spirits and happy at the prospect of going home. It didn't occur to me that this would be the last time we would wish each other well and shake hands as old friends do. So my friend rest easy and know that all the good times we had will keep you in our thoughts. God bless you. Love to all George, Janice and Family.

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**George Shallis** - February 13, 2015 at 05:32 PM

MB

*Perfectly said.*

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**Myron Bicklebaum** - February 14, 2015 at 12:45 PM

PM

“*Don was a wonderful man and will be missed by all of us, his co-workers at Verizon. He was always so willing to sit down and explain things and help all of us. And he loved to kid around. Today we lost an exceptional all around great guy.*

*Patricia McCoach*

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**Pat McCoach** - February 13, 2015 at 05:24 PM



RS

“*Barbara and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Now we have a new intercessor in front of the Lord.*

*Ron Salazar  
verizon*

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**Ron Salazar** - February 13, 2015 at 04:21 PM

ST

“*It was in the late 1980's we went to a Halloween and he was dressed as little red riding hood and the wolf at the same time he always can make you laugh and we will always remember Don's bar in Eddie stone. Love you Don*

*Gina and Steve*

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**Steve** - February 13, 2015 at 04:11 PM

SE

“ *Steve & Gina Everett lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Mitchell*



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**Steve & Gina Everett** - February 13, 2015 at 04:08 PM