



William Thomas Donohue

January 19, 1935 - August 25, 2020

William Thomas Donohue, 85, lifelong resident of the Goatville section of New Haven, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on August 25, 2020 – five days following his 60th Wedding Anniversary. Bill was born on January 19, 1935 to the late Edward L. and Margaret (Waldron) Donohue. He was a graduate of Worthington Hooker School, Wilbur Cross High School (1952), and Providence College (1960). He proudly served in the United States Navy. Bill worked for the City of New Haven as the Redevelopment Director, Giordano Construction Company, and New Haven Board of Education Adult Education in conjunction with Crossroads, Inc. Bill's lifelong dedication to helping and serving others involved him in countless projects and organizations -- too many to list. He collaborated with many passionate people to form and build upon a variety of charitable, community and civic-centered programs. Some of his most treasured experiences with people he loved included his position as a founding member of the New Haven Road Race for which he served as President for decades to follow. He was the President of the Greater New Haven Pee-Wee Hockey Association where he coached and refereed all four of his sons. Bill was a dedicated member of the Providence College New Haven Club and honored recipient of its Veritas Award. The love of his Irish heritage consumed many of his passions, including memberships with the former Knights of Saint Patrick, the Irish American Community Center, and was the recipient of the AOH Friendship Award. He was a lifelong parishioner of New Haven's Saint Joseph Church, where he served in all

aspects of his Roman Catholic faith. Bill will be missed for his legacy of a revolving door of family, friends, and strangers alike, who sought his unique and compassionate counsel. Bill was predeceased by his beloved first born son, William Thomas Donohue, Jr., his cherished parents Edward L. and Margaret (Waldron) Donohue, and his brothers, John and Eddie. He leaves behind his adoring sister, Marge (Jack) Hansen. Bill was a devoted husband to his loving wife Marguerite (Mulroy) and a self-sacrificing father to James (Sarah) Donohue of Vernon, Brian (Dianne) Donohue of Guilford, Kevin (Holly) Donohue of New Haven, and Eileen (Brian) Kenney of Madison. He will be forever remembered for generations to come by his fifteen grandchildren Jenna, Bruce, Jimmy, Megan, Colleen, Marguerite, Brian, Liam, Aidan, Riley, Erin, Jane, Nora, Billy, and Ned, and his three great-grandchildren Jay, Elliott, and Andrew. Bill was cared for by so many warm healthcare workers and companions, most especially his kindhearted sister-in-law Mary Mulroy and his attentive home health care aide Sheila Hagwood. A special thanks to the NP12 Supportive Care Unit team at Yale-New Haven Hospital for their kind and compassionate care.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated Monday at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph Church. Masks will be required by all that attend. Burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery. Calling hours are Sunday from 3 - 7 p.m. in Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden. Masks are required.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the William T. Donohue, Jr., '79 Memorial Scholarship c/o Notre Dame High School, 1 Notre Dame Way, West Haven, CT 06516. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

St. Lawrence

280 Derby Ave.
West Haven, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

AUG 30. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Josephs Church
Edwards St.
New Haven, CT

Tribute Wall

PH

“ I no longer get the Register, a friend informed me of Bill's passing. My brother John & I would compete with Bill & John Donohue in an impromptu tennis doubles competition, we called the Irish Brothers Tournament, at OWENEGO at the end of every summer. It didn't matter who won, it was just good fun. My condolences to the entire Donohue clan.

Paul Higgins

Paul Higgins - September 02, 2020 at 05:21 PM

TM

“ *Jim and Family*

I just found out here in South Carolina about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family at this most difficult time.

God bless!

Tom Malin

tom malin - September 02, 2020 at 09:20 AM

ML

“ *The LaFontaine family, Lou, Joan, Kathy and Mark, send our deepest condolences to the entire Donahue family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Lou cherishes memories of a shared childhood in New Haven and college at Providence. The rest of us fondly remember family gatherings (especially on Christmas Eve) and many, many youth hockey games and road trips with the Smedley Stars and Fieldview Flyers. Billy was never without a smile, or an encouraging word and his love of people and laughter brought joy to everyone he came in contact with.*

Mark LaFontaine - August 31, 2020 at 06:41 PM

PC

“ *Thinking of you all across the ocean, and celebrating Bills life. Paul and Wendy love to the clan.*

Paul T Curzon - August 30, 2020 at 10:06 PM

JM

“ *My condolences to the family, I can still remember Bill blowing the whistle at me and sending me to the sin bin, he will be missed, Jay Matthews and family*

jay matthews - August 30, 2020 at 04:50 PM

EC

“ *Mrs Donoghue and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Brian, Diane and I have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. Diane and Ed*



Ed Casella - August 30, 2020 at 11:42 AM

WF

“ *With love from the Luzietti Family purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



With love from the Luzietti Family - August 30, 2020 at 09:04 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



August 30, 2020 at 05:58 AM



“ *My heartfelt prayers to Kevin and the entire Donahue family for your loss. May your dad Rest In Peace. Heavenly Father watch over and bless his soul and this family. Salvatore Consiglio.*

salvatore consiglio - August 29, 2020 at 11:49 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



August 29, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



August 29, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



August 29, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ *Jim, we send our sincerest condolences on the passing of your dad. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

The Germaine Family

Steve Germaine - August 29, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ *Bill had a vision of what New Haven could be for all residents throughout the City and he inspired everyone that worked with him to push the vision to reality.*

His strong faith in God and in the goodness in people was truly infectious pushed all of us to be the best we could be.

Joseph L. Rini, former New Haven Redevelopment Agency attorney

Joseph L. Rini - August 29, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ *Lou L. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



Lou L. - August 29, 2020 at 12:03 PM

SS

“ Dear Mrs. Donohue and Family: I am very sorry to hear of Bill's passing; during my years working at Notre Dame I had the honor of knowing the entire Donohue Family....none better. Bill "suggested" that I volunteer for the Board for the NH RoadRace and it was a most worthwhile and enjoyable experience. He was a great counsel to me over the years. You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Steve Kirck
ND '64

Steve Kirck Sr. - August 29, 2020 at 11:30 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.



August 29, 2020 at 10:17 AM

HK

“ Mickey and I send our deepest condolences to all of the Donahues, (especially Mama and Eileen). It was always a pleasure to see him around the "hood made easy by the fact we live around the corner. I'll miss him at the polls!!

Henry Berliner and Mickey Kavanagh

Henry Berliner and Mickey Kavanagh - August 28, 2020 at 04:03 PM

FW

“ *Jim*
Sorry to hear of the passing of your father. Reading his obit leaves one to believe he was a bigger than life individual.

Fred Walsh - August 28, 2020 at 03:29 PM

MM

“ *I wish to convey my deepest sympathy to the entire Donohue clan. I loved and admired Bill for his wit, his compassion, his gentlemanly manner and his love and dedication to his family and his friends. Bill is at peace in our Lord's hands and will remain there for eternity. Bill Donohue was a 'true' Irishman. God Bless.*
Mary Katherine Mannion

Mary Katherine Mannion - August 28, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.*



August 28, 2020 at 09:59 AM

VD

“ Lost a very dear friend yesterday, Bill Donohue. He and I were close for many, many years and he helped me through some very, very difficult times. He was always ready to listen to my concerns, complaints, on being a son and father and husband and always offered good advice. Our talks about politics were always wonderful and frustrating because he was a strong Democrat and me a strong Republican. It made for some interesting conversations on our many trips to UCONN games and lunches together, and there were many. This never interfered with our friendship because we shared so much more than differing political views. I will miss him.

Sue and I send our deepest condolences.

Vincent DelPrete - August 28, 2020 at 09:55 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Thomas Donohue.



August 27, 2020 at 09:55 PM

EM

“ Kevin, sorry for your loss 🍀 🚗

edward malone - August 27, 2020 at 09:41 PM

ET

“ Dearest Bill, he called me his Colonial Cousin. Loved him very much. In 2016 after 40 years apart it was so wonderful to be together again, with Barrie he formed a very special bond, it will last for always. Rest in peace.

Your colonial cousin Eileen God Bless You - ALWAYS

Eileen ann Tindall - August 27, 2020 at 07:55 PM

EJ

“ Wise and welcoming is how I will always remember Uncle Bill. I will keep the Donohue clan in my prayers along with the heavenly tennis match I imagine is going on between Billy and his dad. Love-Love

Eileen Jenetopulos

Eileen Jenetopulos - August 27, 2020 at 04:14 PM

GK

“ To the family of William T Donohue (BILL)

it is with the deepest sadness that we send our condolences to the entire Donohue family.



Joanne and i will miss Bill terribly. I have been friends with Bill since 1964 and he has always been there for me. Bill contribution to New haven was immense, and New Haven has never prospered as much as it did during his tenure as redevelopment director.

Bill was always there to help those that needed it, and some that did not. His big heart was only matched by his smile.

We will miss him dearly.. and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Joanne and Jerry Kagan

gerald kagan - August 27, 2020 at 03:23 PM