

## Donald Allan Gillespie

August 29, 1951 - September 16, 2025

Guilderland, NY-Donald Allan Gillespie, 74, passed away on September 15, 2025, after a long battle with Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Don was born on August 29, 1951, in Troy, NY. He was the son of the late Allan and Hope (Chase) Gillespie. He was a lifelong resident of Guilderland.

Don Graduated from Guilderland Central High School in 1969. He attended many High School reunions, especially his 50th. He also attended Albany Junior College.

Don entered the business world first selling real Estate then office supplies, from there he started his own business "Gillespie Commercial Furnishings" in the 1980's. He along with his "Pillar" Melanie Adalian. The business flourished for many years under their leadership. Later in life he joined Tech Valley Office Interiors, in which he enjoyed working. Like his father he was a natural born salesman in which he excelled. His customers became his friends. He was able to gain their trust and confidence with his knowledge of the business.

Don had a very outgoing personality and a great sense of humor and could tell a funny story like no other. He was especially good at Sports trivia. He was requested at one point to reframe from giving an answer so that the other players could have a chance.

He was a big sports fan, and his favorite team was the LA Dodgers right from birth and never missed a chance to catch a game even when he was in the hospital. Don was named the starting outfielder for the Capital District All Star Babe Ruth Team in the 1960's. He played over 28 years in men's softball leagues. He loved watching his Great Nephews Ryan and Evan play on Travel Baseball teams in Guilderland. He also enjoyed watching his Great Nephew Tyler's bowling matches when Saratoga bowled against Guilderland. He also went to the bowling sectionals.

Don enjoyed getting together at holidays with family and friends to catch up on their lives.

Don loved life and lived it well. He had many very good friends especially Ron and Cathy Frank, Melanie and Chuck Adalian, Mark Link, Kathy Pickett and "The Stewart's Gang" (they know who they are).

Don is survived by his brother Gary (Mary Ellen) Gillespie and his sister Susan (Kevin) Suddard, Nephews Sean McCarthy, Patrick (Anna), Bryan and Cory Gillespie, Nieces Kimberly and Erin McCarthy, His Great Nephews Tyler McCarthy, Ryan and Evan Gillespie and his Great Niece Isabella Donadio, whom he affectionally called Izzy His cousin Diane Nowak.

He was predeceased by his parents Allan and Hope Gillespie, his aunt, Uncles and his 2 Cousins.

My Brother and I were very close. He has meant everything to me especially the "Gillespie sense of humor" we shared. I say Thank you, I Love you and God Bless you.

Don was also very special to his sister; he was her confidant when their

parents passed away. She will miss him very much. Rest In Peace big brother.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Don's family Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 N. Allen Street, Albany, NY. Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance only.

Don's Funeral Service will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2025 12:00 pm in the funeral home. The Rite of Committal will be held at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Guilderland, NY immediately following the Service.

To leave a message for the family please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

Those wishing to remember Don in a special way may make a contribution to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, 3 Oakland Ave., Menands, NY 12204

# Cemetery Details

## Prospect Hill Cemetery

Western Ave  
Guilderland, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 489-0188  
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

*Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance only*

## Service

SEP **24**. 12:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 489-0188  
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Allan Gillespie*



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**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - September 22, 2025 at 02:26 PM

AW

“ *I was a Manufacturer's Representative in the office, education, healthcare, and hospitality furniture business from 1977-2023. I met Don (I think) in 1977 when he was a office supply and furniture salesman for G.F. Blackmer Co. out of Saratoga. He worked out of their branch off Wolf Rd. We shared furniture, sports, and our warped sense of humors. The worst thing I could do is accept his invitation, on a Friday, to go out to Happy Hour. It was a 2 1/2 hour ride back to my home in Syracuse. I had to make sure I was sober enough to drive back.and this was on a Friday. It got to the point that my wife signed me up for a 30 and over softball league on Fridays so I had a excuse to turn Don's invitation down. He'd always accept making a 6:00 game back in Syracuse and let me go. We both were passionate about sports, as a softball players and fans. In all our years we only played together once. That was a Gus Hollner/A1 Installers picnic where we ended up playing against each other. Whenever we talked he let me tell him a few off my "warped" jokes before we got into the serious stuff. Don was one of the "good ones". He will be missed. Art (or to him, Artie) Werksman.*

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**Art Werksman** - May 12 at 05:46 PM

TC

“ I first met Donnie back in 1980 when he visited me at Ayco Company marketing his office supply products. We quickly discovered that we had similar sense of humors and a love of sports. Donnie became our primary source of office supplies and we became great friends. We played together on a few softball teams over the years and enjoyed many beers after the games. I moved out of the Albany area about 20 years ago but saw Donnie occasionally typically at a get together during March Madness. When I think of him, I immediately hear that cackling laugh of his and it makes me smile. So sorry to hear that he passed. Tim Callander

Tim Callander - April 28 at 12:12 PM

TF

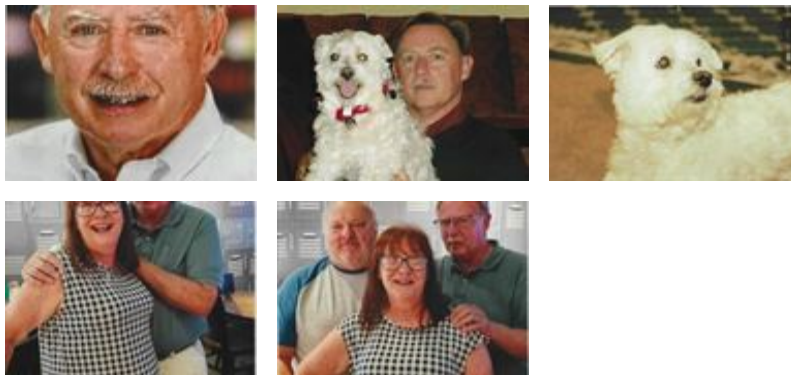
“ The Eisaman family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Allan Gillespie.



The Eisaman family - September 22, 2025 at 09:00 PM

MCVEIGH  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.  
(518) 489-0188

“ 111 files added to the album LifeTributes



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - September 22, 2025 at 02:22 PM

BM

“ Donny was our good friend & Strat o Matic baseball guy .We would play for hours in Gallops back porch .always great fun & laughs. Donny had the best sense of humor & could always make u laugh with a good story or joke.  
I will always remember him fondly .  
Prayers to Gary & the entire family  
Brian Meyl

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**Brian Meyl** - September 22, 2025 at 12:42 PM

TM

“ Don was one of a kind. I so enjoyed doing business with him and considered him a friend. He was a happy guy who enjoyed life. His laughter was contagious. God Bless him. My sympathies. Tracy Metzger

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**tracy metzger** - September 22, 2025 at 07:30 AM

RF

“ And so our journey began, kindergarten 1956. Who knows what a 5-year-old thinks about in wanting to have a friend – a common classmate, a neighbor, or just someone who brings you into a feeling of belonging, fun and adventure. I love Donnie Gillespie! Our friendship of 70 years is without comparison to anything I ever experienced. We grew up together, yes; but my life was molded by the character, the personality, the perspective, the unquestionable uniqueness of Donnie

*Donnie was a connector, a special person with a gift for connecting people together and ensuring that relationships last over time, distance, and all life's changes that we all experience. The magic glue that was Donnie's gift was his storytelling, humor, and the nicknames he created. Yes, Donnie had nicknames for everyone and used them freely. He was the narrator of hundreds of the funniest stories that featured our families, neighborhood buddies (Fort Orange Manor), our school classmates (Guilderland Class of '69), and his professional colleagues whom I have had the pleasure to meet through the years. I know the details of these stories because I was honored to be featured in many of them plus, I believe I do hold the record of having the most nicknames. My wife, Cathy, also had the pleasure of being a star in a few Donnie stories and yes, with her own nicknames. Laughing hilariously at the same stories passed down for many years was our trademark with the insistence that everyone laughs along with us.*

*In my last visits with Donnie, we reflected on these past 70 years of our brotherhood. We retold our favorite stories and laughed as always. In comforting Donnie, it was clear that he was comforting me too. That is who Donnie was, and these memories will last forever. To quote a favorite line of Donnie's: Rest in peace my dear friend, "Catch you in the funnies"*

*With deepest love and sympathies to the entire Gillespie family  
Ronnie and Cathy Frank*





**Ron Frank** - September 21, 2025 at 09:05 PM



*Great tribute and summed up Don perfectly*

**Marklink Kathypickett** - September 22, 2025 at 10:32 AM



*Absolutely beautiful tribute to Donnie, he will never be forgotten!!!*

**Darla Cheney DeBruin** - September 22, 2025 at 11:39 AM



*Thank you Ronnie for the beautiful tribute to my brother. Donnie would have loved it, and his nickname for me was slim right up till the day he passed. I will miss him calling me that.*

**Susan Suddard** - September 22, 2025 at 05:20 PM



*“ God was truly one of a kind, great guy. Through our 35 year friendship we have so many phenomenal memories. We laughed every time we were together. He always put a smile on my face! Too many fond memories to list , but one that stood out was the time he flew to Pittsburgh for a pirate /dodger weekend and met the entire family and from then on he was part of it. Rest in peace, my friend.*



**Edward Eisaman** - September 21, 2025 at 11:37 AM

DB

*In reading a few comments from friends and classmates it brought back my memories of Don in high school. I do remember his sports interest in baseball, his quick wit and easy going style. As many other classmates I moved away from NY but came back for high school reunions and always saw him and talked to him. He answered the phone when I called to confirm my attendance at our last reunion and had a great conversation after not seeing him for all those years. God bless him and his family.*

*Don Blagriff*

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**Don Blagriff** - September 22, 2025 at 10:57 AM

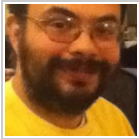
MG

*Don was one funny man that would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. We had many, many fun adventures golfing - and after golfing. For many years, we hardly missed a fundraising golf event along with Link. Rest in peace Don.*

*Marc Goldstein*

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**Marc Goldstein** - September 24, 2025 at 01:08 PM



“ *don was a great guy i used to hangout with him at mangias*

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**Salvatore Tarzia** - September 20, 2025 at 09:52 PM

DS

“ *Don & Marie Stichter purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Donald Allan Gillespie.*



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**Don & Marie Stichter** - September 20, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ Another Don being Don. Knowing his birthday is 8/29 but i was thinking it was the 29th when in actuality it was only the 28th. This was our exchange on his Facebook page



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**Marklink Kathypickett** - September 20, 2025 at 10:40 AM

ML

“ He most certainly was Don even through the hardest of times, all the ways to the end. When i was talking to him on the phone he said "Link I can't talk too long as i run out of breath". I told him then don't talk I will do all the talking. His reply was "Admit it, this is your dream come true, isn't it"

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**Mark Link** - September 20, 2025 at 10:09 AM



“ Will never forget our times with Don at Mangia's! Tremendous personality and an absolute pleasure to be with. Don then moved to an apt across from mine. My condolences to family and friends. One of a special kind. Thought are with you. Jeff Goldberg

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**Jeffrey Goldberg** - September 19, 2025 at 03:53 PM