



James Joseph McDonald

April 24, 1934 - April 30, 2024

James Joseph Mc Donald

Dad was born in Elmhurst (Queens) New York on April 24, 1934. In his determined way, he made it to 90 and died on April 30, 2024. He was the only child of James Martin Mc Donald and Helen Hornik Mc Donald. His father was a baseball player and that started Dad's love of sports. He spent all of his spare time playing basketball, baseball and a little football. During high school, he was a leader on his basketball team and was recruited by Harold Anderson to play at the collegiate level at BGSU. However, Dad didn't think he was ready for college. After working for a few months, he enlisted in the Army, where he served for two years. His athletic ability allowed him to serve in a non-combat capacity and he played and/or coached the Army basketball, baseball and football teams. One of the highlights was when the Army team almost beat a US professional team! Since his time in the Army was at the end of the Korean conflict, he was offered the opportunity to be discharged early to attend college. His scholarship offer to BGSU was still available. While at BGSU, he met the love of his life, Nancy Anne Shenk (from St. Petersburg, Florida), during the Spring of his junior, her senior year. They were engaged by early summer and married on August 23, 1958. After a honeymoon to the Florida Keys, they returned to BGSU where he finished out his playing career. As our family grew, summer vacations were spent visiting New York and Florida so we could all spend time with our relatives. After graduation, he began his coaching career. His first job was at Ottawa

Hills High School. In addition to coaching basketball, he helped with baseball and football. His coaching associates and he formed a summer painting crew, where they earned extra money to support their budding families. After coaching at Ottawa Hills High School for 4 years, where Dad met many of his life-long friends, he moved to Sylvania Schools, where he coached basketball for 6 years.

Then his College Coaching years began. He was first hired as an assistant coach at his alma mater, BGSU, under Bob Conibear. After one year at BGSU, he was approached by Coach Bob Nichols to coach at the University of Toledo. The UT Rocket program flourished during his time there. Many more of his lifelong friendships developed while he was on the coaching staff at UT. In 1982 he was hired as the head coach at Kent State University. He turned the program around while at Kent State. And was honored to become member of the Kent State Athletic Hall of Fame (as well as the BGSU and Sylvania Schools Halls of Fame).

Ever the competitive person, in retirement, Dad took up tennis. When they moved to Florida, he joined a tennis team that became Senior Champions in Florida. He continued playing tennis when he and Mom moved to South Carolina. As our Mom's health declined, he saw less of the tennis court, but kept up with that sport as well as basketball. He took diligent care of Mom, who suffered with Alzheimer's Disease for over 10 years. Sadly, she preceded him in death on March 28, 2020.

When Dad's health started failing, we moved him back to Ohio. He was blessed to have so many former players, coaches, trainers and statisticians visit him regularly. He loved to tell stories of all the games he played in or coached and share those highlights with these friends. The family is so thankful for the loving attention he received from the visits.

During their almost 62 years of marriage, Mom and Dad raised 6 daughters, and had 16 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. They travelled after Dad retired and some of the places they visited included Hawaii, Spain, Australia, London, Paris and Monaco. They also started a family tradition of vacationing

in Hilton Head Island, where many of the daughters still go.

Jim is survived by his 6 daughters: Kim Cryan (Larry), Catherine, Mary Helen Turner (Tom), Carol, Jill Sternburgh (Charlie) and Beth Meloy Bozich (John). He is also survived by 16 grandchildren: Jimmy, Rachel, Robert, Sara, Joe, Matt, Tanna, Tommy, Nancy, Jenny, Meagan, Emily, Evan, Madison, Conner and Ava. And 7 great grandchildren: Amon, Everly, Robel, Caleb, Ella, Wren and Cade.

Visitation will be on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. Toledo, Ohio from 3pm until 8pm. Sharing of Coach stories will begin at 6:30pm. A Funeral Mass and Military Honors will take place at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church on Friday, May 10, 2024 at 10am. Interment will be private.

The family would like to thank Maumee Pointe and Hospice of Northwest Ohio for taking such good care of our dad as he made his final journey.

Anyone wishing to make a memorial contributions are encouraged to support the following:

- Hospice of Northwest Ohio (<https://www.hospicenwo.org>)
- Kent State University Men's Basketball (<https://www.kentstatesports.com/supportmbb>)
- University of Toledo Athletics (<https://utrockets.com/rocketfund>)
- BGSU Athletics (<https://falconfunded.bgsu.edu>)

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Sharing of Memories

MAY 9. 6:30 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Funeral Mass

MAY 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick Of Heatherdowns
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH

Tribute Wall



“ *Deepest condolences on your loss.*

John Mahnen - May 11, 2024 at 07:38 PM

BT

“ *My sympathies go out to the family of Coach McDonald. He changed the lives of so many young men for the better and especially my own. He not only made us better as basketball players but also inspired us to be better human beings. He was a person of integrity and hard work and you can tell in the video what a great father he was to his family. My prayers are with you as you grieve for your father but also the great honor it must have been in having such a wonderful dad. He was the best coach I've ever had! God bless, Billy Toole*

Bill Toole - May 11, 2024 at 08:40 AM

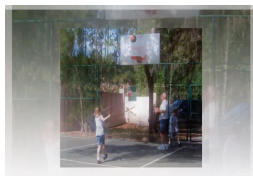
RH

“ *What a wonderful tribute and family. Kim - reading this beautiful tribute to your father brought back so many warm memories of you and your family. Love and condolences to all of you.*

Regina and Tom Hyldahl - May 09, 2024 at 08:37 PM

CV

“ *2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE*



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - May 09, 2024 at 01:58 PM

RM

“ Rob Senderoff (Kent State MBB) purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of James Joseph McDonald.



Rob Senderoff (Kent State MBB) - May 09, 2024 at 10:46 AM

RM

“ Rob Senderoff (Kent State MBB) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Joseph McDonald.

Rob Senderoff (Kent State MBB) - May 09, 2024 at 10:46 AM



“ My sympathies for the family of Coach Jim McDonald. I was blessed to be his first Grad Assistant at Kent State. I learned so much from Coach Mac. I learned so much about the game. So much about teaching the game. But most importantly, how to coach in a way that impacts people for life. He was a man of God. I will never forget him. Forty years later, and I still structure so many things in my practice the way he did. And every one of my players has heard the same saying before every game that he shared with his teams. "Who can ask more of a man, than giving all within his span. Giving all it seems to me, is not so far from victory." - George Moriarty. I love you Mac, You live on in all of us. Dave Close, Stow High School boys basketball coach

David Close - May 09, 2024 at 12:45 AM

SM

“ *The Board of Trustees and staff of the Ottawa County Community Foundation extend their sympathy to Kim Cryan, whose support of our work is valued and appreciated, and to the entire family.*

Shea McGrew - May 07, 2024 at 04:55 PM



Shea, thank you so much for thinking of our family at this time.

Kim

Kimberly Cryan - May 12, 2024 at 03:48 PM

SA

“ *See above purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James Joseph McDonald.*



See above - May 07, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Joseph McDonald.*



May 06, 2024 at 01:15 PM

GR

“ Coach and Family-so many visions flash through my mind of you red faced during battle and encouraging many of us onward into life and beyond where surely we shall rendezvous with you again . I will never forget you reviewing offensive and defensive strategies over the phone while this thirsty for advice Lieutenant and B Ball Coach of the Ft Eustis Wheels eagerly reviewed your roadmap of man-to-man vs Zone Defenses while my Post General, MajGen Redling sat behind me during the games as I contemplated my career in Vietnam should I not execute the strategies- per your advice. We had a good laugh about this later. Thanks for your lifelong guidance in perseverance and determination for God, , Country, Family, and friends.

Glenn

Glenn Rudy - May 06, 2024 at 10:15 AM

ME

Thank you for contributing Glenn, this is a great message. - Megan Coyle

Megan - May 06, 2024 at 10:23 AM



Thank you so much for the great memory.

Kim Mc Donald Cryan

Kimberly Cryan - May 12, 2024 at 03:50 PM

CO

“ *Jim was an excellent coach and first class gentleman. He loved his family. We were honored to call him a friend.*
Rod and Cathy O'Donnell

Cathy and Rod O'Donnell - May 04, 2024 at 08:54 PM

JK

What a beautiful obituary of Coach. He will be sorely missed and never forgotten. Bless Jim McDonald.
Jim and Heide Klein

James Klein - May 05, 2024 at 08:00 AM

JS

I graduated in 1971 from what was then called Sylvania High School. I remember seeing Coach McDonald walking the halls of the school many times.
Joyce R. Stephan

Joyce Stephan - May 05, 2024 at 10:12 AM

BC

Coach McDonald helped me in so many ways. I am grateful he was in my life. I will miss him!
Bob Crowther

Bob Crowther - May 05, 2024 at 11:07 AM

JK

Intensity building to caring, building to character and teamwork. Impossible to word - briefly - Coach McDonald's influence - physically and emotionally. If I'm not mistaken, it was the senior Jim Klein who advised that if he yells at you, he cares. Well, he really, really cared. And, Klein was right. He cared - about doing it right - more than any one I have ever been associated with. And, I, and so many, many others, are grateful. Gratitude that has made us strong and compassionate through this. Larger, much larger, than life.

Jim Klein - May 05, 2024 at 01:08 PM