



Donald R. Sazama

December 11, 1945 - July 15, 2019

Donald R. Sazama, 73, of Bonita Springs, FL passed away Monday, July 15, 2019. He previously resided in Byron Center, MI. Throughout the years, he also lived in Grosse Pointe, MI, Hilton Head Island, SC, Reisterstown, MD and Fremont, NE.

Don was born in Osmond, NE, a son of the late Jerry and Leona (Spes) Sazama. He was an Eagle Scout. Don graduated from Midland College with a Business Degree and later earned his CPA certificate.

Mr. Sazama's career started as a public accountant before becoming President and CEO of Pioneer Steel Corporation and Pioneer Die Sets, positions he held until recently. For several years, he was on the Board of Directors for Midland College.

As an avid recreational race car driver and instructor, Don traveled the country racing his Porsche. Past memberships include the Grosse Pointe Kiwanis Club, the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club, Western Michigan Porsche Club of America and the Corvette Club of Baltimore. Don also enjoyed reading, completing The Journal Weekend crossword puzzle, playing golf and boating.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Helen L. (Bass) Sazama; children, Gretchen (Doug) Kirkpatrick of W. Bloomfield, MI, CJ Sazama of Austin, TX

and Melinda Sazama of Naples, FL; brother, Randy (DeINor) Sazama of Fremont, NE; and three granddaughters and two grandsons. In addition to his parents, Don was preceded in death by his brother, Jim Sazama; and one granddaughter.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald R. Sazama*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Dear Helen, we were sorry to hear of Don's passing having learned of it in the GP News. We have fond memories from our neighborhood times when you lived in Grosse Pointe together along with the surprise visits when you guys were out for your long walks. Our prayers go out to you. Love, John and Chris Miller*

john miller - July 27, 2019 at 10:35 AM



“ *Helen no words are adequate to express my feelings at this time. The visit to Maryland is one of my favorite memories with you. Made a trial timed run to hospital in case Nicole should be born there. Don bringing lemon to meet the craving and his woderful laugh when I ate it. Nicole was born two weeks after we flew back home. May you all be blessed with comfort and strength. Love, Sandy Filsinger DePetro & Family*

Sandy Filsinger DePetro - July 26, 2019 at 03:07 PM



“ To Helen, Gretchen, Melinda and CJ,
There are no words that can describe the loss that has occurred to your family and to all who Don touched. After 35 years of working together, you all have been such a part of my families life. His death leaves a very big void in my life and my families life. I am always a call away.

with Deepest Love, Affection and Prayers

Jill Ryan Family

Jill Ryan - July 22, 2019 at 12:06 PM



“ Helen and family, We are so sorry to lose another classmate. We were looking forward to seeing you in June. Don and I went to the same church growing up. Many great memories. So sorry for your loss. HUGS Marlene Rockwell Vecera Class of 64

Marlene Vecera - July 20, 2019 at 08:56 PM



“ Helen our deepest sympathy to you and your family in the passing of Don.
He will always be remembered as one of the good guys. one can say at least
that he is no longer suffering. May God be with you. Love you guys
Leo & Janice Spes

Leo Spes - July 19, 2019 at 06:38 PM

LJ

“ Thinking of you, wishing you hope in the midst of sorrow, comfort in the midst of pain. We are deeply sorry about the loss of Mr. Sazama. As you grieve, know that we are remembering and honoring him. We send our condolences to the family and friends.
From: Pioneer Steel Detroit Family



LJMALONE - July 19, 2019 at 02:29 PM

TH

“ I worked with Don for over 30 years as Pioneer's CPA. Professionally, I'll remember him as an honest and brilliant businessmen. Personally, I'll miss his ever-present smile and dry sense of humor. Even after being diagnosed with leukemia, Don continued to crack jokes and laugh. And I'll never forget the way he faced his illness--always staying upbeat, never complaining and taking care of his business and his family right up to the end. I'll miss you Don
Tom Hinsberg

Tom Hinsberg - July 19, 2019 at 10:35 AM

LD

“ LAJEANA MALONE PSC DETROIT lit a candle in memory of Donald R. Sazama



LAJEANA MALONE PSC DETROIT - July 19, 2019 at 08:33 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald R. Sazama.*



July 18, 2019 at 01:52 PM



“ *Helen and Family,*

Thank you for sharing your husband and dad with me this past year to talk about racing and the 911. I have big shoes to fill, but will do my best to keep Don's spirit alive at the track. My deepest sympathies and prayers go out to you. May His grace and peace touch your heart and shine upon you during this time.

Curt

Curt Groelsma - July 18, 2019 at 01:43 PM



“ *2 files added to the album 911*



Curt Groelsma - July 18, 2019 at 12:48 PM