



## Mr. Donald Smith Reed

July 19, 1933 - January 24, 2018

Donald Smith Reed died at his home in Winterville, NC on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 after extended battle with lung cancer.

Donald, better known as Don, was born on July 19, 1933 to the late Smith Reed and the late Meryl Blackman Reed of Queens, New York. He attended New York City Public Schools, graduating from Stuyvesant High School in 1951. After high school, he served as a radio operator in the Air Force. His time in the service allowed him to build upon an interest in Amateur Radio, a hobby introduced to him by a neighbor. Upon his return from deployment in Germany, he attended Queens College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts.

While working as a social worker at the Department of Social Service, Don met and married the late Mary Reed. Together they had one son.

Later, Don would follow in his father's footsteps and enter the New York City Fire Department. In 1970, he helped rescue a man and woman from a burning building. In response to the frantic shouts of the man, Don returned to the apartment, and crawled through the smoke and flames to also rescue the couple's infant and older child. The following year, he proudly accepted the

Holy Name Society's prestigious Maltese Cross Medal in recognition of his distinguished service in the line of duty.

In 1972, Don married Marie Jones of Philadelphia, PA. They had one daughter.

After retiring from the Fire Department, Don began teaching at a local elementary school. While working for the NYC Board of Education, he attended Long Island University to pursue a Master of Science in Education Technology. This new career path would take him from computer teacher, to teacher trainer, and finally to the position of Technology Coordinator for District 25.

In New York, Don was actively involved in the Boy Scouts. He served as a Troop Leader, helping to produce numerous Eagle Scouts, including his own son. He was an avid photographer, passing the skill on to his daughter and grandson. His interest in Amateur Radio operation was one he pursued until illness forced him to stop. While active, he was able to earn recognition for contacting every country in the world, and even spoke to an astronaut in orbit.

Don and Marie moved to Winterville, NC in May 2007. He quickly became an active member of the Pitt County Democratic Party and related organizations and served as a precinct captain for several elections.

Although Don wore many hats during his life, he was most proud of his role as husband and father.

Don is preceded in death by his brother, Dennis "Bill".

Don is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Marie; son, Christopher;

daughter, Nina; grandson, Christopher; great-granddaughters, Melody and Harmony; sisters, Linda and Meryl; one niece; a host of cousins and friends.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Donald Smith Reed*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to each of you at this time of sorrow. I met Don and Marie shortly after they moved to this area. I enjoyed their company and admired how close they were to each other. I pray that the God of all comfort will comfort each of you as you adjust to the loss of your loved one. May precious memories of your loved one bring lasting joy to you as you face the days ahead. May the blessings of the Lord rest upon each of you.*



**Novella T. May** - February 08, 2018 at 02:08 PM



“ *With deepest condolences to the Reed family. May he Rest In Peace ,*

*Alfreda Wimberly Barrow*

**Alfreda Barrow** - February 05, 2018 at 01:25 PM

JB

“ I met Donald and his younger brother Bill in the 50s. We all lived in Flushing, NY, and they were both standouts for being so tall, but mostly because they were so straight-arrow. Didn't have a lot of contact at all with either back then, Bill was so shy and we thought Donald to be much older than our teen selves. Didn't see him again till about 20 years ago while he was still in NY, by then, long married to Marie. They seemed very sympatico, so great for each other. They were blessed in that. Then, when they left NY for NC, I mostly kept in touch with them both by e-mail forwardings and the like. Wonderfully intelligent, caring people, both politically & socially active. So sorry Don's life had to end the way it did, but he no longer suffers and is now the old Don we all knew, now held in God's warm embrace. May God continue to bless Marie and Nina as they mourn the loss off their beloved spouse & father. My sincerest condolences.



Janice Johnson Blair - February 03, 2018 at 01:11 PM

CV

“ Sending my deepest condolences Nina and Mrs.Reed on the loss of your father /spouse.my thoughts and prayers.c



Carolyn Vargas - February 01, 2018 at 06:52 PM



“ Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Smith Reed.



February 01, 2018 at 12:06 AM

TA

“ *The Rt Rev Robt Wright & Staff Diocese of Atlanta purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Donald Smith Reed.*



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**The Rt Rev Robt Wright & Staff Diocese of Atlanta** - January 29, 2018 at 04:14 PM

SR

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Reed family. We always enjoyed seeing Don and Marie. He was a fine man. Marie and family are in our prayers.*

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**Sara Beth Fulford Rhodes** - January 27, 2018 at 07:30 AM

MC

“ *Min Dora Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Smith Reed*



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**min dora cox** - January 27, 2018 at 12:09 AM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home And Staff sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Donald Smith Reed*



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**Congleton Funeral Home and Staff** - January 26, 2018 at 05:17 PM

DH

“ Marie , Clem and I are so sorry for your huge loss. Don was such a special, kind, caring person who advocated throughout his life for the underserved.....as a fireman, a kindergarten teacher (amazing) and finally as a community political activist. Though we did not see him often, anytime I was in his presence, I felt cared for and valued as a person. It was a privilege to share a small part of his precious life. We celebrate your wonderful marriage and how you truly brought out the best in each other. With love, Dorothea and Clem

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**Dorothea Handron** - January 26, 2018 at 02:46 PM