



Russell J. "Russ" McDonnell

September 26, 2021

Russell J. "Russ" McDonnell, 72, of Jake Landis Road, Lititz, PA, passed away unexpectedly at his residence on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Born in Lancaster, PA, he was the husband of Adele "Bev" Kilhefner Stark McDonnell and they celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary on December 2nd. He was the son of the late Richard and Betty Studer McDonnell.

A 1967 graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School, Russ will be remembered for his work ethic and his abilities as a master of all trades. He was the co-owner of Eastern Drillers Manufacturing in Columbia, PA. Russ was an excellent cook and famous for his grilling techniques including brisket, prime rib, and steaks. He was a Penn State fan and a die-hard fan of the Philadelphia Eagles. He also enjoyed antiques, collecting baseball and football cards, and listening to oldies from the 50s and 60s.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children, Russell J., McDonnell II, husband of Sharon, Lancaster, PA and Kelly McDonnell, Lancaster, PA; four stepchildren, Les, husband of Erica Stark, Mt. Penn, PA, Jim Stark, Ephrata, PA, Gina, wife of Lenny Sweeney, Elizabethtown, PA, and Justin, husband of Tiffany Stark, Clancy, Montana; five grandchildren, Connor McDonnell, Dallas, TX and Bryce McDonnell, Lancaster, PA, Hunter, Layke and Lennon Marcum, Lancaster, PA, five step grandchildren, Lea Stark, Ephrata, PA, Tyler Goshert and Tanner Goshert, both of San Diego, CA, Corbin Stark, Clancy, MT, and

Rylan Bowden, Ephrata, PA. He is also survived by two very close cousins, Cheryl, wife of Andy Hartman, Lancaster, PA and Carole Matt, Leola, PA.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Russell's Memorial Service at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, (corner of W. Orange & Pine Sts.), Lancaster, PA on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. with The Rev. Kathryn L. Kuhn officiating. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service. Private interment will take place later at Millersville Mennonite Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the American Heart Association, 610 Community Way, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Cemetery Details

Millersville Mennonite Cemetery

Millersville , PA 17551

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Memorial Service

OCT 2. 3:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Russell J. "Russ" McDonnell*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Bev,*
I was so sorry to see the passing of your Russ. You have my deepest sympathy and are in my thoughts and prayers.

Chris Kohan

Chris - October 08, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ *Bev,*

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Russ. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Andrea Yingst

Andrea Yingst - October 02, 2021 at 08:42 AM



“ *Russ and Kelly*

Sorry to hear of the passing of your father. You and your loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers. Blessings

Steve Kleckner

Steve Kleckner - October 01, 2021 at 01:04 PM

EB

“ I would like to send prayers/condolences to the family members of Russ McDonnell, we were 1967 McCaskey classmates n shared several business classes at McCaskey. I also appreciated his son Russ for his contributions as the weight lifting coach during our successful boys basketball championship at McCaskey Earl Papa Boots

Earl Papa Boots - October 01, 2021 at 11:56 AM

CM

“ Hearing of Russ' passing broke my heart. The many memories my husband and I shared over the years with Russ are amazing. He always said he knew working for EDM was going to be interesting when he was first hired in 1982 to build a house for Tinker, the skunk, until our last meeting when he came to VA to pay respects to my husband in 2019. Bob always thought of him as family. So I'm sure that standing next to his mother and dad when he arrived in heaven that Bob was there too waiting to show him around.

Caroline Mortell - September 29, 2021 at 02:28 PM

CM

“ Caroline Mortell purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Russell J. "Russ" McDonnell.



Caroline Mortell - September 29, 2021 at 02:16 PM

MS

“ So sad today to learn of an old friends passing. My deepest condolences to the family. Russ and I made a few life long memories cruising the Lancaster loop back in the 60s. It was a wonderful time to be a teenager.

Mike Shultz - September 28, 2021 at 10:09 AM

KM

“ Deepest Condolences from Kenny Myers & the Myers boys & Kegel's Produce

Kenny Myers - September 28, 2021 at 08:49 AM

EI

“ Eastern Driller Mfg Co Inc purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Russell J. "Russ" McDonnell.



Eastern Driller Mfg Co Inc - September 28, 2021 at 08:27 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Russell J. "Russ" McDonnell.



September 28, 2021 at 07:07 AM