



## Darryl J. McDonald

September 12, 1949 - January 25, 2025

Darryl J. McDonald, 75, of Manteno, passed away Saturday, January 25, 2025, at his home.

He was born September 12, 1949, in Chicago, the son of James and Jeanie (Galbraith) McDonald. On December 22, 1974, he married Marie Wzorek in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. They enjoyed gardening, cooking, and taking daily walks throughout their marriage. The couple also enjoyed fishing, boating on the Wolf River in Wisconsin, and spending time at the trailer they rehabbed there.

Darryl was a high school science teacher in the Chicagoland area, starting at catholic schools and making his way into the public school system. Throughout his teaching career, he did many things, such as being Department Chair of Science and coaching track and water polo. He enjoyed having many plants and fish tanks in his classroom, judging science fairs to which he loved bringing his daughter, and even forming a band with students and fellow teachers to perform at school functions.

Being a lifelong learner, he went back to school many times and obtained three master's degrees in education. He loved nothing more than learning and teaching. He enjoyed teaching people music, photography, and even carpentry. Music was his passion from a young age, and he learned how to

play bass and later picked up piano, keyboard, and rhythm guitar. In his younger years, he also enjoyed running and swimming. Darryl appreciated art and enjoyed going to art fairs with Marie whenever possible. Darryl was an avid reader with an extensive vocabulary and was very comfortable with public speaking. He spent his mornings reading the Bible and praying. His favorite scripture to meditate on was Psalm 91, and he cherished the Book of Job.

His family meant everything to him, especially his granddaughter Sophia, whom he couldn't wait to spend time with.

Darryl is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Marie McDonald; his daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Shane Hansen; his granddaughter, Sophia; and the many cherished friendships he made over the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, twin brother Dave, brother Brian, and sister Kim.

Services are private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Darryl's name to Samaritan's Purse, <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/donate-online/>

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ 1 file added to the album *The PW Staph Infection Band*



Dr. Michelle Emani - March 15, 2025 at 07:19 AM

DE

*Thank you for blessing us with your God-Fearing, non-perishable, relentless presence. I appreciate the opportunity & support you have given to us unceasingly. To Marie McDonald, the Queen of all Queens, daughter & granddaughter: KEEP YOUR HEAD UP & FEAR NOTHING. LOVE CONQUERS ALL. Speechlessness is NOT an option. We celebrate the good, honest & pure nonstop when it comes to this man of God. Thank you so much for sharing Darryl's presence with us. You Are Love & Appreciated. We celebrate Darryl's love for his family & honor your transparency regarding his final wishes. To be absent from the body is to present with the Lord. Rejoice! Until we see you in heaven Darryl, we will obey with joy & consistent competency. Rest well Birthday Partner. 09-12...Fluorine, Magnesium Daily Elements will be celebrated.*

Dr. Michelle Emani - March 15, 2025 at 11:34 AM

GP

“ Dear Marie,  
This is Greg speaking. I just learned of Darryl's passing yesterday so please forgive my late expression of absolute sadness. I am having great difficulty putting my feelings into words, but let me try. For almost 50 years, Darryl has been my best friend. But the word "friend" doesn't even come close to what your husband meant to me. Darryl was like a father, brother and friend all rolled into one! I have often, especially lately, looked back over my life for the few times I have been truly happy. And Number 1 has always been the times when Darryl and I worked together doing remodeling in the summertime! Does that seem strange? I guess it does but it's true. And over the last 20 years or so that I've been mostly outside the US, I always thought how good it would be to return someday and hang-out with him, just to.....talk. He was knowledgeable, wise and caring and I always listened carefully to his words. There will never be another one like him and his death has left me feeling like a part of me has died, too. I am so sorry, Marie.....this makes me want to cry.

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**GREGORY PONCZEK** - February 24, 2025 at 11:16 PM

SH

“ Darryl was my father-in-law. He frequently checked in with me to let me know he loved me. He was too familiar with the pains and sufferings this world offers. He often emphasized the importance of being kind. Thankfully, he also knew where to put his hope. He told me he had accepted Jesus as his savior. He continuously encouraged me to keep my eyes on God by referencing Daniel 6, saying don't worry about the lions... just trust our Heavenly Father. I'm thankful for his lessons and will pass them along to his granddaughter. All is well, Dad ❤️

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**Shane** - February 13, 2025 at 03:46 AM


KN

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Darryl's passing. I was the drummer in the teacher band at PWHS and always had a great time jamming after school. He was really a very kind person and fun to play music with!

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**Kimberly A Nicasio** - February 03, 2025 at 08:17 AM


MA

“ Darryl, the love of my life for fifty years, was my best friend. God brought us together at the Cracker Jack factory where we were working summer jobs. In record time he swept me off my feet and our love journey began. We talked, laughed, walked, exercised, gardened, remodeled and traveled together and it never got old. Our most cherished achievement was bringing our daughter Jennifer into this world and watching her grow into the beautiful woman she is today. Darryl was so excited to finally be blessed with his precious granddaughter, Sophia. He so looked forward to each upcoming trip to spend time with her. As the days have passed this last week since Darry's going to be with the Lord, I find myself realizing his absence more and more. I can only conclude that Darryl and I each were blessed with the “best prize” ever! Until we meet again Dear, much love 

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**Marie** - January 31, 2025 at 11:43 PM

JE

“ My Dad inspired me to be a life long learner, scientist, teacher and outdoor enthusiast like himself. There is always something to discover in God's beautiful creation. Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow. Dad is enjoying an eternity with Jesus Christ and one day we will be there also. 

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**Jenny** - January 30, 2025 at 07:34 PM

MM

“ MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of Darryl J. McDonald



MR MRS - January 30, 2025 at 08:38 AM

GC

“ Darryl was always so positive and supportive, especially new teachers. He was truly a kind soul. I never heard him yell yet students respected and listened. Miss seeing him in the Proviso West teacher band. Rest well.

Gillespie Carissa - January 29, 2025 at 04:44 PM



My condolences to the Family He was a great Teacher at Proviso West Rest Well 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏.

Sofia Diaz - January 31, 2025 at 07:25 PM

SB

“ Darrel was such a teacher of life!!! I had the privilege of knowing him as an adult. Darrell had a beautiful spirit and was a wonderful example of right living. The world needs more men like him. So sorry for your loss to Jenny and his dear wife. God bless you all. Susan Williams Biedess ❤️

susan williams biedess - January 29, 2025 at 04:40 PM

DF

I knew Darryl for over 30 years. We worked together and fished together. He was a good friend and has a nice family. I will miss him a lot.

Dan Famera - January 29, 2025 at 10:44 PM

PF

“ He was always so nice and friendly to me at Proviso West. RIP...

*Ms. Faleti*

Pearl P Faleti - January 29, 2025 at 04:39 PM

MC

“ I had the privilege of working with Darryl at PWHS for many years, and I cherish the memories we created together. We often walked the hallways in the mornings to get our steps in, shared meals in the cafeteria, and I frequently sought his counsel and advice. As a younger teacher, I looked up to Darryl as a mentor, and I truly missed his soft, reassuring presence after he retired. I know he lived a life well spent, and I'm grateful to have been a part of it. Now, I take comfort in knowing he is among the stars.

*Mr. Michael S. Costello*

Michael S Costello - January 29, 2025 at 12:10 PM

AW

“ Sad to see you go cousin Darryl, you will be missed by many, especially in this Family, Sending Our Love and Condolences to Marie and Jen and Lil Sophie💕💕 God Bless your Spirit Cousin🙏



Alice Wiszowaty - January 29, 2025 at 09:45 AM

CJ

We walked everyday twice for sure. Loved talking and hearing stories of his family. Called me the day he became a grandfather. We retired the same year and continued communicating. Sorry that Sophie will not know how great a man her grandfather was in life. Marie and Jen you are in my families prayers.

charles a jalove - January 30, 2025 at 06:22 PM

RD

*Darryl was a kind, sensitive, beautiful, spiritual, man. He loved Jesus, his family, and music. We spent thousands of hours talking and walking the halls of Proviso West. During those walks he expressed to me the depth and breadth of his love for his wife and daughter. Someday Darryl and I will walk together again.*

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**Roger Deddo** - February 06, 2025 at 04:25 PM