



Mr. Donald L. "Don" Kratzenberg, Ret. UPD

February 4, 1940 - May 22, 2026

WHITESBORO – Mr. Donald L. “Don” Kratzenberg, Ret. UPD, age 86, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 22, 2026, at the Sitrin Health Care Center Hickory Cottage, where he shared many years with wonderful and caring caregivers. At the time of his passing, those most precious to him were held closely in his heart, just as they had been throughout his life.

Born in Utica on February 4, 1940, Donald was the son of the late Donald and Dorothy (LaDue) Kratzenberg. He was a graduate of Utica Free Academy and furthered his studies at MVCC, where he obtained his A.A.S. degree in 1973. He continued his education at SUNY IT, graduating magna cum laude in May 1976 with his B.P.S. degree.

On July 31, 1988, he was united in marriage with the former Donna (English) Grippe. Through the years, their marriage was built on love, loyalty, and unwavering support for one another. They truly complemented each other, standing side by side through life’s joys and challenges. Together, they created a partnership grounded in commitment, respect, laughter, and the quiet strength that carried them through the years.

Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to a distinguished career in law enforcement and investigations, serving with integrity, professionalism, and unwavering commitment. Beginning at the age of 21, he joined the Utica

Police Department, first as a patrolman and later advancing to detective in the Juvenile Aid Division. He then joined the federal government with the Department of Defense until his retirement. While there, he earned the respect of colleagues and the trust of the many agencies with whom he worked including the CIA, FBI, Homeland Security, and Customs and Immigration. Over the course of his career, while collaborating with numerous federal agencies, he was entrusted with the highest levels of security clearance — a reflection of his exceptional character, expertise, and dedication to his work. At one time he taught Criminal Justice at MVCC. Following his retirement, he continued pursuing his passion for investigative work by establishing his own successful investigation business D&D Investigations.

Beyond his career and accomplishments, he embraced life with energy, passion, and a true appreciation for the moments that brought him joy. An avid runner and natural athlete, he loved staying active, whether skiing down the slopes or simply enjoying the thrill of the outdoors. He enjoyed traveling and looked forward to vacations where he could relax with a Long Island Iced Tea or a glass of Jack Daniel's in hand, surrounded by family and friends. He also took great pride in driving his beloved Porsche, something that perfectly matched his spirited personality and love for adventure. He relished being the captain of his boat at Alexandria Bay, which he loved dearly and took great pride in.

He was especially blessed when he married Donna and gained a daughter who remained faithfully by his side through the years. Together, they shared countless memories through vacations, everyday adventures, and life's special moments. When her children, Carmine and Ellia, came into his life, he proudly became "Grandpa Don" to them— a role he cherished deeply. He went above and beyond for all his grandchildren, never missing an opportunity to support and love them. Whether attending a sporting event, cheering at a

dance recital, or simply taking a trip to the store, the time he spent with them was truly precious and filled with love.

Don was proud to hold longtime memberships in the PBA, NRA, and the Central New York Porsche Club of America, and also served for many years as a board member of the Business Training Institute.

A devoted fan of the New York Giants, he attended numerous football games and Super Bowls — most memorably the Super Bowl experience he shared with his family at the Giants' MetLife Stadium. Whether cheering on his favorite team or spending time with those he loved most, he lived life fully and left lasting memories with everyone fortunate enough to know him.

At one time, Don was a communicant of St. Joseph and St. Patrick Church.

Don is survived by his devoted wife, Donna; daughters; Ondrea Grippe Getz of Marcy and Stephen Getz, Karen Simpson and Arthur Mech of Cranberry Lake, Jodi and Jeffrey Chester of FL, and Trisha Kratzenberg of Utica; grandchildren, Carmine Grippe Getz, Ellia Grippe Getz, Kristin Simpson, Steven and Miranda Simpson, Ryan and Shelby Simpson, Alexandria, and Emily Chester, Kayla, Joseph, Danielle, and Corey Kratzenberg; 8 great-grandchildren; and sister, Jill Howe of Utica. He was preceded by his sister, Diane Kern. He is additionally survived by Heather Frost of VA, a caring niece who was concerned and checked in on her uncle regularly. Don also leaves to cherish his memory many friends amassed throughout his life, especially Buddy Maunz, Tony Crescenzi, Nikki and Tony Fraccola, and Paula Pacciarelli.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to caregivers Amy, Mila, Diamond, Doreen, Maryann, Kendra, and Valerie of the Sitrin Health Care Center

Hickory Cottage, who went above and beyond in caring for Don. They treated him as though he were one of their own and provided unwavering support to his loved ones, for which the family will be forever grateful.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Eannace Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Don's loved ones will remain until all visitors have been greeted. By family request, please omit floral offerings. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Donald's Mass of Christian Burial and Celebration of Life which will commence on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. from the funeral home and at 2:00 p.m. at Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus, 2222 Genesee St. For those unable to attend, you may be present virtually at <https://www.youtube.com/@MaryMotherUticaNY/streams>. Entombment will take place in Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Trinity Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum

Champlin Ave.
Utica, NY 13501

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com
<https://www.eannacefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mary, Mother of Our Savior Parish, Lourdes Campus
2222 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13502
<https://www.motherofoursavior.org/CatholicChurch.php>

Tribute Wall

MA

“ Dearest Donna & families,

With sincere sympathy for the loss of a beautiful man with a gracious heart of love for everyone he met. We have been blessed to have known him as your husband. So much time has gone by but the memories continue with you Donna. We speak of you so often and the kindness, care and compassion you have showed us will never leave our hearts. It seems like only yesterday we were in your shop. We were very blessed to have been in church with you and your family via U-tube. We also received Holy Communion with you and offered the Lords Peace, His Grace and Mercy to be with you always.

Ondrea's words of love were beyond the beauty of a wonderful and beautiful daughter she continues to be at this most difficult time of life. Please know you will be in our hearts today and always.

With love and the Peace of Jesus.

May Don rest in the Arms of His Angels till we all meet again in Glory! What a Heavenly Reunion it shall be. Amen.

*Frank&Mary Annese
Venice, FL*

Mary Annese - May 30 at 08:42 PM

JJ

“ Donna, Ondrea, Karen, Jodi, and Trisha,
Thank you for giving Don such a wonderful
life. He always loved and cared about his
family and friends. My fondest memory of Don
is the time that he went outside and stopped
traffic so a Mother Duck and her Ducklings could safely cross the
road. We all will miss him .



jJill - May 30 at 03:51 PM

GL

“ Donna, I am so sorry and sad for the loss of your husband Don. My
heartfelt condolences go out to you and your family .

Gary Lonczak - May 29 at 08:40 AM

HE

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Heather - May 28 at 09:27 PM



“ 195 files added to the album LifeTributes



Eannace Funeral Home, Inc. - May 28 at 06:16 PM



“ *When Don and I first met in 1987 at the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, we were immediately thrown into eleven weeks of intense training in Richmond, Virginia. That shared experience sparked a friendship that defined the rest of my career and life. Don was the epitome of loyalty—the kind of friend who showed up before you even knew you needed him, ready to handle whatever was necessary.*

He possessed an incredible attention to detail. In the office, it made him a highly respected professional among the defense contractor community. Outside the office, those same sharp powers of observation made him a legendary practical joker. He carried himself with a distinct flair, earning the nickname "Diamond Don" for his impeccable style and sartorial splendor. But beneath the sharp suits was an even bigger heart. Don's generosity was unmatched, and I'll always fondly remember the countless dinners we shared on the road where his kindness left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Rest in peace, my friend.

Anthony Crescenzi - May 26 at 09:10 PM

SS

“ I have so many memories of Don (Cappy) I call him that because he was definitely a captain of his boat, Lots of get together at Alexandria Bay, , overnights at embassy suites, celebrating Christmas together,many birthdays ,so many laughs ,Don always did a Dunkin run for all who wanted coffee, at Grippe's hairstyling , a kind, caring ,funny gentleman, that I will cherish our memories, close to my heart ❤️ rest in peace you Gentle man 🙏 prayers for Donna ,Ondrea and family to get through this tough time 🙏❤️

Sandra and Mike Schachtler - May 26 at 08:43 PM

SM

“ I met Det. Kratzenberg back in 1972 ad a Probation Officer . Over the years we never lost contact with each other. One story we shared I'll never forget was when he said he was chasing a criminal. It was a fridget January day. The suspect drew a gun and Don pulled his .45 . When the guy fired , Don pulled his trigger but it was frozen ! We'd meet at the gym and he had a \$500 Addidas outfit and \$500 Nike. Sneakers and of course his jewelry. He always was impeccable dressed ! So sad to hear of his passing, go New York Giants and RIP Det. Kratzenberg ! Also condolences to the family.

Steve Madrak - May 26 at 05:11 PM

UC

“ Donna, Ondrea & family,
I am so sorry for the loss of Don. My memories of Don at Alex Bay and your family, I will always cherish those memories we had together.

Love,
Ursula Cerminaro

Ursula Cerminaro - May 26 at 04:45 PM

DC

“ Donna, Ondrea, and family,

I am so sorry to hear about Don's passing. I met him a few times at the salon he was such a nice man. Thinking of you all at this difficult time.

Diana, Anthony, and Michael Coriale

Diana Coriale - May 26 at 03:52 PM

GD

“ Karen, Jodi & Tricia. Sending our condolences from Florida. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

George, Karen DiBrango & Family

George DiBrango - May 26 at 11:27 AM

LD

“ Years ago, I usually had my young grandson, Tyler, with me while I had an appointment with Donna. Don would often take him out for ice cream or to throw a baseball around. Of course, Tyler was especially impressed with Don's car. I was most impressed with his kindness.

Lauren Davis - May 26 at 08:38 AM

DP

“ D'ANNE PARATORE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald L. "Don" Kratzenberg, Ret. UPD



D'ANNE PARATORE - May 25 at 04:13 PM