



## Carl Donato Jr.

August 10, 1948 - September 13, 2022

Donato, Carl Jr. age 73 of Clarkston, Michigan

Died January 24, 2022 at his Florida winter home of a heart attack.

Carl was born on August 10, 1948 in Pontiac, Michigan, the only child of Carl Sr. and Jerry, nicknamed Granny, (nee Bivens) Donato, both deceased. His parents owned the Donato Markets and later Ma & Pa's Drayton Beer Store on Dixie Hwy.

Carl attended Emanuel Christian School and graduated from the Waterford Schools, and subsequently attended O.C.C.

He retired from the Pontiac Motor Division and was a proud member of UAW local 653.

Carl played the drums in local bands including the Excels and the Mark V and was given the opportunity to open for Stevie Wonder, Bob Seger, The Kingsmen and other musical acts in the 1960's. He made many friends in music and took great pleasure in performing and watching others play.

He was also the announcer and co-host of the public access musical variety television program "That's Entertainment" in Clarkston.

Carl was a Black Belt in karate, training at the Karate and Judo Schools of America on Woodward. He embraced the spirituality, tenacity and dedication it required. He was never afraid of hard work and looked forward to every new challenge.

Carl was also a motorcycle and car aficionado owning an assortment of bikes, muscle cars, sport cars, 4wd trucks, Corvettes and hot rods. All of them, always, were immaculately clean.

Carl will be best remembered for his gregarious spirit and engaging personality. He had the marvelous ability to strike up a conversation with any stranger and make them his friend, keeping many of them for his entire life. We hope you had the good fortune to become one of them.

Carl will be inurned at the Mount Hope Catholic Cemetery in Pontiac on Friday, September 16 at 2PM to lie in rest with his beloved parents and his grandmother. All are invited to attend. [www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Hope Catholic Cemetery

727 Orchard Lake Rd.  
Pontiac, MI 48341

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

SEP 16. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Hope Catholic Cemetery  
727 Orchard Lake Rd.  
Pontiac, MI 48341

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ I just found out that he passed away. Carl was my Godfather and helped raise me. I called him Uncle Carl. I haven't seen him since I was younger. He and my dad had a falling out, and I hadn't seen him since. I love him very much and have missed him very much. He helped shape who I am. I am so sad to hear that he has is no longer here. I cannot imagine this world without him.



Denise McKinney - July 11, 2024 at 03:41 AM

RW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Roger Welsh - September 15, 2022 at 08:04 PM

RW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Roger Welsh - September 15, 2022 at 07:39 PM

RW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Roger Welsh - September 15, 2022 at 07:38 PM

RW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Roger Welsh - September 15, 2022 at 07:33 PM

EN

“ Eva Newman lit a candle in memory of Carl Donato Jr.



Eva Newman - September 14, 2022 at 03:46 PM

BH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ben and Merle Holland - September 14, 2022 at 02:44 PM

RW

“ 23 files added to the album carl's life in photos



Roger Welsh - September 13, 2022 at 08:41 PM

SF

“ Carl

*You were such a dear part of our family. You were my Fathers best friend for the good part of 50 years. As I was an only child, I consider you the older brother I never had. Your memory is with us each and every day. We will always be reminded of you each time we see something that makes us laugh or when we hear a certain song that comes on the radio. It's so difficult to know that we will never hear your voice again and never experience your personality. Your life stories and experiences you shared with us have become embedded in our hearts. We cherish the time we had with you my dear friend.*

*Jon R Sampson II Tanya Sampson & Jack Sampson Yvonne Sampson (D)*

*Oh yeah almost forgot HOLLYWOOOOOOOOOOODDDDD!!!!!!!*

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**Sampson Family** - September 13, 2022 at 04:02 PM

MM

*Carl was such a close family friend to the Stockwell/Marsac family, we cherish his memories, I'm sad on this notice that I won't be able to attend God bless Carl and R. I. P Brother*

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**Michael Marsac** - September 13, 2022 at 07:37 PM

EN

*Always laughing, always enjoying life, always making lemonade when life handed him lemons....wherever you are, I know you've already made a large circle of friends!*

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**Eva Newman** - September 14, 2022 at 03:49 PM

JB

*I have fond memories of Carl in band at Emmanuel. Sorry to hear of his passing.*

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**Judi Mills Bauer** - September 14, 2022 at 05:55 PM

WM

*Carl , my adopted uncle. I will miss you and your great stories that you shared while growing up with my Father and the rest of Stockwell/ Marsac family . I will cherish them forever and I will never forget your great laugh. You were always so kind and I love you ..*

*Wendy Stockwell.*

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**Wendy Stockwell Martin** - September 15, 2022 at 02:42 PM

CE

*Precious Carl I was one of the lucky ones to have known you. Fond memories of you after all these years, Tina*

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**Christine D Evans** - September 19, 2022 at 05:02 PM