



Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio

May 31, 1957 - May 30, 2016

Dennis Lee Donofrio, 58, of Valrico, Florida, and formerly of Cumming, Georgia, born in Erie, Pennsylvania on May 31, 1957, entered into eternal rest on May 30, 2016. He was Owner of Trident Tax Advisors, a wrestling referee with the FHSAA, and a Master Sensei in the Martial Arts. He enjoyed exercising, wrestling, biking, telling stories, joking and enjoying life. He is survived by his children, Douglas L. Donofrio (Tiffany) of Cumming, Robert L. Donofrio (Kellie) of Valrico, Richard L. Donofrio (Amber) of Lake Worth, Florida, Taylin P. Donofrio of Cumming and Jesse L. Donofrio of Cumming; grandchildren, Isaac and Jackson Donofrio; father, Howard V. Donofrio of Erie, Pennsylvania; siblings, Kevin V. Donofrio (Katrina) of Valrico, Jeff B. Donofrio of Orlando, Florida, and Diana Donofrio of Orlando; step-siblings Tammy Weary (Ron), Craig Cashore of Waterford, Pa; and many other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley Pauline Williams; and sister, Pauline Donofrio; step-mother Frances Donofrio. The family will receive friends on Monday, June 6 from 6-8:00 P.M. at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 CR 39 S, Plant City, Florida 33567. Graveside committal will be held on Wednesday, June 8 at 3:00 P.M. at Hopewell Memorial Gardens, Plant City, FL. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Heart Association at www.donatenow.heart.org. Expressions of condolence at www.HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Graveside

JUN 8. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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Plant City, FL 33567
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Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio



Hopewell Funeral Home - June 03, 2016 at 10:47 AM

DM

I met Dennis 18 years ago next month what a great guy he introduce me to everyone has his younger cousin and I definitely thought of him has family..Dennis you are a person I truly looked up too..You have touched so many people and will be truly missed..It was an honor to call you my friend..

Doug M. - June 06, 2016 at 01:54 PM

RD

“ 5 yrs anniversary since Big D passed on to greener pastures. Cherish the memories that remain. Hope all is well with you and your families. Happy would be 63rd B-Day to big D tmrw and happy Memorial Day to all. 🕊️

Robert Donofrio - May 30, 2021 at 03:05 PM

JZ

“ I just learned of Dennis passing today. I am so so sorry. I was in an LAFitness in Atlanta and I saw an friend from 20 years ago. We both knew Dennis, and I asked my friend, "Have you heard from Dennis?" and he told me Dennis had passed. I was more than shocked. I have know Dennis for probably 30 years, as far back as the old Lanier Fitness days in Cumming, Ga. I am so sorry for your loss. Dennis was always one of my favorite guys to hang out with.

Jim Zalewski - January 09, 2020 at 07:08 PM

MA

“ I just added 27 photos under 'New Album Name'. Various photos from Steve Jordan receiving his certificate, to Duke Lowery's Roast, to my son's karate classes, to Bid D. Birthday with the singing Nurse telegram. Too funny - should have seen his face when she tried to handcuff him. There was no way he was going to allow that. Check them out!

Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson - June 13, 2016 at 02:13 AM

RD

Thank you Mary.

Richard Donofrio - June 13, 2016 at 07:14 AM

MA

You are more than welcome Ricky. I also have 2 of your karate certificates, if you want me to mail them to you just text me the address. I hope you, Bobby and Doug are doing ok. He was an incredible man.

Mary A - June 13, 2016 at 10:36 PM

MC

So sorry to read about of Dennis's passing. I just came across this information after googling Dennis Donofrio . I enjoyed the time I had in his Karate class . It was a great experience . I remember the time he had us come to his house and train on his driveway. Bobby and Doug were two fine boys . I know they miss their Dad

Mark Coleman - May 21, 2019 at 11:37 PM

RD

“ In my grief, I find myself visiting this website every day. My thoughts lead to my Dad each day and every night. I cry at random moments missing him. The littlest things remind me of him. How can I not be reminded of him when he had such a presence? My Dad was truly larger than life.

Why do we get caught up in our lives and forget what matters most? I wish I had spent more time with him before he left. He's my Dad, I should have found the time. Still, the time I spent with him is immeasurable and I will treasure it.

My Dad's time on earth was commendable. He touched many people's lives. He deserves our praise, and I thank each and every one of you who gave tribute in his passing. None of us will forget this incredible man.

Dad, I know you can read this. I love you and I know you love me. I also know you will comfort everyone who knew you with your everlasting presence. Your spirit lives on. You're not gone.

Richard Donofrio - June 10, 2016 at 10:08 AM

DA

I'm so sorry to have just found that my great friend and brother Dennis has passed.

We just were separated by miles, but we have always had such respect for each other.

God bless you Dennis, your family will no doubt always live with you still....

I was just thinking of you this morning...

Love you Sensi , friend, Master Donofrio

david adams - February 06, 2017 at 08:13 PM

GA

“ *Dennis always seemed to possess an extremely positive outlook on life. He truly lived his life to the fullest. As his former minister I had the privilege of watching him grow spiritually. He was a huge encourager to me in the area of fitness and I'll always consider him a true friend.*

Gary Armes, former minister, First Christian Church, Cumming, Ga.

Gary Armes - June 07, 2016 at 11:37 AM

LT

“ Doug, Bobby, and Ricky,

I am so very sorry for the loss of your dad and cannot imagine what you must be feeling and going through. It has been so long since I've seen most of you, including your dad. When my dad called with the news, I was heartbroken. I had no idea how many childhood memories of your dad and of you all that still lived with me, until that very moment when they all came flooding back. Your crazy ole dad! I laugh out loud just thinking of most of the memories that come to mind. One thing that keeps playing over and over again in my ears that I heard your dad say for years is 'come on you little sissy'. Probably wasn't funny to y'all back then, but it was to me :). I know, that for all of us, life and family relationships have their unpleasant spots, but I truly believe that love wins over in the end if we allow it to. I am so thankful that my dad was hard on me growing up, because I know it played a huge role in shaping my character, and I think the same is true for y'all. I know in my heart that your dad must be incredibly proud of the lives and families you have each built for yourselves.

We will never understand while still here on this earth, why God takes people when he does. We just have to trust that His plan is greater and mightier than ours. I am so sorry I was not able to come down for the visitation and service, but my heart is with each of you. I am praying for your peace and will continue to pray in the coming weeks as life goes back to 'normal'.

*With love always,
Leslie*

Leslie Tinsley - June 07, 2016 at 06:09 AM



Amanda
Ellis

“ *I met Dennis 12 years ago when he was working as the general manager at the LA Fitness where I worked. He was a great guy. Condolences to the family. You are in my thoughts xo*

Amanda Ellis - June 06, 2016 at 06:23 PM



“ **CROSSING OVER**

*Oh, please don't feel guilty
It was just my time to go.
I see you are still feeling sad,
And the tears just seem to flow.
We all come to earth for our lifetime,
And for some it's not many years
I don't want you to keep crying
You are shedding so many tears.
I haven't really left you
Even though it may seem so.
I have just gone to my heavenly home,
And I am closer to you than you know.
Just believe that when you say
my name, I'm standing next to you,
I know you long to see me,
But there's nothing I can do.
But I'll still send you messages
And hope you understand,
That when your time comes to
Cross over, I'll be there
To take your hand.*

-Dennis

Dennis Donofrio - June 06, 2016 at 12:26 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio.*



June 06, 2016 at 09:34 AM



“ *We want to thank everyone for all the wonderful thoughts. My husband Jeff is Dennis's older brother. We were all very sad to hear that he had passed on. Jeffrey loved his brother more than he will ever know and was so proud of him. Words can not express just how special he was to so many people.*

Lynn Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 11:20 PM



“ *Lynn Donofrio lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio*



Lynn Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 11:07 PM

MD

“ Tomorrow, with great sorrow, I have to say goodbye to a man who has been in my life for 53 yrs. He was my first love, the father of our 3 wonderful sons, the grandfather of our grandchildren, and my friend until the end. Dennis was a larger than life personality and quite a character and will be missed by many people.

Dennis, thank you for giving me the 3 best sons that a mother could ever have. We shared great times, and yes some not so great, but I am glad that you were in my life and I will never forget you.

Monica

Monica Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 10:46 PM

BD

“ Hello all friends and family. My Grandfather Howard Donofrio just called from Erie, PA, explained that he is very ill and cannot travel due to doctors orders (81 years old), and asked that I post this on his behalf to you all:

"I love my son! He is our gift to heaven." Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.

-Howard Donofrio

Bobby Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 06:05 PM

MA

“ *There are few times in our lives that we meet someone that touches and impacts our life and changes it forever. Dennis was one of those people for me. I learned a lot from you in all those years Dennis! You opened the world up to me, you taught me to face my fears, you taught me self confidence and that there was nothing I could not do, thank you for that. You were my sensei, my mentor, my best friend...we shared good times, and bad times, you helped me through some rough times, memories abound. You will live in our memories forever, I know you will mine. RIP Big D.*



Mary Anderson - June 05, 2016 at 04:49 PM

BD

“ Thank You ALL for your support and kind words during this troubling time. The family is devastated with this loss and reading these posts is much appreciated and helps significantly. This short poem below reflects some of my thoughts better than I can ever put in words myself. Cherish every moment you all have with the ones you love because, just like that, the opportunity to do so could/will cease to exist. God Bless and much love to any and all who knew my father. He was an interesting human being. I love him and miss him dearly already. Always will.

Memories of Dad

*If tears could build a stairway,
and memories a lane.
I would walk right up to Heaven
and bring you back again.*

*No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say "Goodbye".
You were gone before I knew it,
and only God knows why.*

*My heart aches with sadness,
and many tears still flow.
What it meant to love you -
Few can ever know.*

*But now I know you want me
to mourn for you no more;
To remember all the happy times
life still has much in store.*

*Since you'll never be forgotten,
I pledge to you today,
A hollowed place within my heart
is where you'll always stay*

*I will take this special moment
To turn my thoughts to Dad
Thank him for the home he gave
For all the things we had.*

*We think about the fleeting years
Too quickly, gone for good
It seems like only yesterday
I'd go back if I could.*

*A time when Dad was always there,
No matter what the weather.
Always strong when things went wrong
He helped hold our lives together.*

*He strived so hard from day to day
And never once complained.
With all of his heart, he worked so hard
And kept the family name.*

*He taught us that hard work pays off,
You reap just what you sow.
He said that if you hone your skills,
abundance around will overflow.*

*My life has been bountiful
He taught me how to give
In his firm and steadfast way
He taught me how to live.*

*Dad dwells among the angels now
He left us much to soon
He glides across a golden field
Above the harvest moon.*

*I will see him in the summer rain,
He rides upon the wind*

*And when my path gets beaten down
He will pick me up again.*

I love you sensei, mentor, friend, hero, and most of all....Dad! Can't wait to be with again one day. Until then...

Your son forever, Bobby

Bobby Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 01:31 PM

BD

Correction... "Your 'favorite' son forever". Bobby ;-)

Bobby Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 01:37 PM

ER

That was beautiful Bobby. I know he is smiling down from above . EL

Eric - June 05, 2016 at 03:50 PM

BB

Bobby you guys are in our prayers and thoughts

Bruce Beaty - June 05, 2016 at 04:07 PM

LD

That was very nice Bobby. I knoe you don't really know me. But, I know how much your dad loved you. He will always be watching over you!

Lynn Donofrio - June 05, 2016 at 10:52 PM

PV

“ *It should also be noted that Dennis left behind an adorable 1 year old grandson named David Lee Donofrio of Lake Wales, FL. Dennis watch over him, be his angel as you will be for many others. The interesting stories of your life and journey will be shared with him.*

Paige Vega - June 04, 2016 at 03:09 PM

JS

“ *Dennis and Kevin were like our two older sons..we enjoyed their company so much....we honestly felt like they were a part of our family....they were like 'older brothers'to our two boys,Mike and Steven..we had such good times with these two..we will never forget you, Dennis....our love goes out to the family you left behind...Paul and Janet Slaton*



Janet Slaton - June 03, 2016 at 09:39 PM



“ *Brenda Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio*



Brenda Jackson - June 03, 2016 at 06:43 PM



Rest in Peace Dennis. You have a bigger than life personality and your children love you very much!

Brenda Jackson - June 03, 2016 at 06:45 PM

DD

“ *Thank you to everyone who has left messages. This is by far the toughest thing I have had to endure in my life. BigD was loved by so many people. Whether you knew him from Karate, Health Clubs, Wrestling, Clash of Clans, riding motorcycles or maybe just in conversation he definitely seemed to touch so many lives. Good or bad pops shaped me into the man I am today and for this I am so grateful he is my father. I love you dad and you will be greatly missed! The Donofrio legacy will live forever.*

Doug Donofrio - June 03, 2016 at 05:35 PM

ML

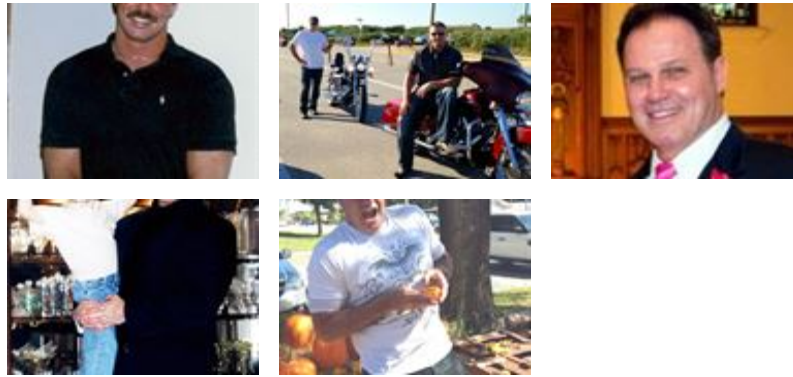
“ *Meleana L. purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio.*



Meleana L. - June 03, 2016 at 04:14 PM



“ *45 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - June 03, 2016 at 10:44 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio.*



June 03, 2016 at 08:20 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio.*



June 02, 2016 at 07:28 AM



“ *Doug, I can't begin to understand how you feel; there are no words that I can say that will soothe your pain. God will give you the courage to stay strong. Keep your faith, stay strong for your father. May his soul rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences are with you and your family. Love you, Ana Pulido*

Ana Pulido - June 01, 2016 at 10:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio.*



June 01, 2016 at 10:06 AM



“ *My name is 1LT Quincy Senatus and currently Im stationed in the Tampa Area. Mr. Donofrio impacted my life more ways than I ever thought through just mere conversation. I just heard about his death today (1June 2016 @0928) and felt compelled to write this message while in route in the back of our humvee. You will be missed and deepest respects to his entire family. The angels upstairs just gained a good one. (GATA)*

Quincy Senatus - June 01, 2016 at 08:35 AM

RT

“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Family, our Prayers are with you all.*

Randall and Sarah Tew and Me-Maw Tew

Randall Tew - June 01, 2016 at 07:36 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Dennis Lee Donofrio.*



May 31, 2016 at 08:54 PM

SJ

“ Dennis was a big, strong "man's man", but he possessed a soft heart. I loved him like a brother, having spent more than two decades training with him in the martial arts and enjoying life together.

In the early nineties, I was unexpectedly moving back from Phoenix, AZ to Cumming, GA, and in the middle of the night, Dennis flew into Dallas to meet me. I picked him up at the airport, and he drove me and my vehicle, with stuff in tow, back home. He never failed to help me when I needed him, no matter the circumstances.

He devoted his life to teaching others, and I am honored he gave his time and effort to me. I grew to love his boys, Doug, Bobby, and Ricky, who trained with us and always tagged along for all of the trips and fun outings.

I take great comfort in knowing Dennis came to know the Lord, and is now in HIS warm embrace.

I will miss you brother, and soon, I will see you again.

Your loyal Yudansha, Friend, and Brother.

Steve Jordan

Steve Jordan - May 31, 2016 at 05:53 PM

MI

Such a beautiful tribute Daddy. I loved Dennis too. It was so fun being with y'all growing up. Always an adventure. Thank you for sharing that with us. Love you Daddy

Misha - May 31, 2016 at 06:52 PM

TE

Indeed, a beautiful tribute, Steve. He pushed me hard, as you did, but always let me do my thing and be my own martial artist. Dennis was a great Sensei and friend.

Travis Echols - June 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DW

Dear Zerín,

At this time of your loss, please accept our condolences. You were loved. Dennis was an amazing person and you were blessed to have had him in your life.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Dionnie Wynter Pfunde
Western Michigan University - Cooley Law School*

Dionnie S. Wynter - June 01, 2016 at 12:31 PM

MC

Dennis was a dear and long time friend; one of the original Fort LeBeouf "Animal Wresters"; class of 1975. It was always good to see him when he came to Waterford for a visit and to talk about all the good times growing up. He will be truly missed by many of his friends and classmates. Rick and Mary Charlton

Mary Charlton - June 01, 2016 at 09:24 PM

KD

There are and never will be words to express how sorry I am for your loss. Your father will always be with you, as long as you keep him in your heart. Loss is such a pain that can't be discribed. It is, however, a nessesity. The wonderful things people are saying about your dad, will always be here on this page. Go back and read as often as you need too. He was a loved man and will be missed. The wisest words that were said to me when Allen passed were these words.... The price we pay for loving is grieving.. No words have ever been more true. I love you guys and will keep you in my prayers.

Krysta M Daughtry - June 05, 2016 at 09:14 PM