



## Mr. Donald Lee Fritz

February 21, 1932 - November 20, 2020

Fritz, Don L. (88) left for the big fishing pond in the sky on 11/20/2020. He began his teaching and coaching career in Missouri while serving as a Second Lieutenant in the National Guard. The family moved to Brandon in 1959 and Don was employed at Turkey Creek Junior/Senior High School as a Driver Education and Physical Education Teacher and Coach. Summers were spent teaching Driver Education at either Plant City, Brandon or East Bay High Schools. He retired from the Hillsborough School System in 1995 after more than forty years of service in education, the last twenty-seven as Secondary Supervisor of Driver Education. Survivors include Mary, wife of 69 years; daughters Sherrie (Dan) Sikes; Patti (Don) Gerdich; Carol (Mark) Gerdich; son Ron (Sheri); granddaughters Krista (Wes); Julie (Syed), Sarah; and great granddaughter Zie, brother-in-law Sam (Joan) Miller; cousins, nieces and nephew. Coach Fritz was loved by all his students and co-workers. A devoted husband, dad, grandfather and great-grandfather adored by all; he loved fishing, hunting, working in the yard and spending time with his family. An outstanding track and football athlete lettering in high school and college, he spent his entire life keeping in great shape. He enjoyed running in races and spent most days at the YMCA lifting weights and doing cardiovascular exercises up until March of this year. 2 Timothy 4:7 — I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. You are our hero — We love you! Services will be held on Saturday, December 5 at 11:00 a.m. at Hopewell Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens (6005 County Road, 39

South, Plant City, Florida 33567). Please know there is limited seating, however, the service will be livestreamed at [facebook.com/hopewellfuneral](https://facebook.com/hopewellfuneral). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First Baptist Church Brandon (216 N. Parsons Avenue, Brandon, Florida 33510), for MAC (Ministry Activity Center). Expressions of condolence at [HopewellFuneral.com](https://HopewellFuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens  
6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
[office@hopewellfuneral.com](mailto:office@hopewellfuneral.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - November 24, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ Mary and family, we loved the service for Don! You did a great job honoring his life and sharing precious facts and memories! Your family has always been special to us, but we are so happy that Jim's baseball allowed us to spend more time with you the last few years. Every time we have ice cream we will smile and remember Don saying that he "has a good idea almost every night!"

*Have ice cream every night in Heaven, Don!*

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**Mary & Jim Senciboy** - December 05, 2020 at 06:02 PM

TW

“ Don has been like our extended family for all the years that we lived side by side as neighbors.

*My family Tom and Bobbie and Terry have always been part of Don's life and Mary's and all the children. We had picnics (Don provided the fish) in our adjoining yards there was always a time to share food and companionship with our loved neighbors.*

*There were fishing and hunting trips that were always planned on the weekends and so many family gatherings to many to count!*

*Don was always there for a smile and a joke and completed our family gatherings.*

*We loved his stability and insight during the many times we joined them at our joint*

*picnic table between our yards...our meeting place.*

*So many stories and happy times we will always remember ....Don you have completed our lives .....*

*We love you,*

*Tyla, Joe and family*

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**Tyla Jean Ward** - December 05, 2020 at 12:32 PM

RI

“ *Many memories and stories from my life are Fritz stories. This family is such a special family, lead by a special man. I pray the memories of a life well-lived will help in the days ahead. My love and prayers to all of you. RIP Don Love, Robin Ippolito*

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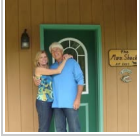
**Robin Ippolito** - December 05, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ *What a beautiful service honoring a great man. Love and prayers from the Northrup and Weaver Families*

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**Kayzie Weaver** - December 05, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“Don” planned a wonderful celebration and the pastor and family shared such a beautiful tribute. It touched me so much and I and although I am saddened that I couldn't be there in person, but am so blessed that I could experience it virtually with you. Please know that you are all continually in my heart, thoughts and prayers! I love you ALL and am grieving with you! Your husband, daddy, granddaddy and great granddaddy has left you all with so much to hold onto and live with through his Faith, Hope and LOVE. As you share all of those gifts with the friends, family and world around you, you will be honoring him every day of your life! May God Bless you All and hold you in comfort and peace now and through the coming days. All our love, Melissa and Barry

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**Melissa Leibovitz** - December 05, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“Ronnie and family.. we are so sorry for your loss. I know he was an incredible man and will be missed by many. I wish we could be there tomorrow ❤️  
Ruth Janego & Kirt Sanders

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**Ruth Pund** - December 04, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“Love, Barb Von Till and Von Till Family purchased the A Full Life for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.



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**Love, Barb Von Till and Von Till Family** - December 04, 2020 at 12:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.



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December 03, 2020 at 10:55 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss...Mr and Mrs Fritz and family you will never know how much you have influenced my life, they have showed me unconditional love and kindness. Mr Fritz may have ran his last mile but his strength, endurance and love lives in your beautiful loving family. Prayers and love are with you. Love You Robin Davis.

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**Robin Davis** - December 03, 2020 at 07:39 PM



“ To my beautiful second family ~ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. You lost a special husband, father, grandfather, and father-in law. He made this world a better place by being in it and being the good man he was. I will miss him and think of him every time I eat ice cream and birthday cake because he enjoyed those so much at every family gathering I ever had the pleasure to take part in. Love to all, Lynne

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**Lynne Mezalis** - December 03, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.



December 03, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.



December 03, 2020 at 06:08 AM



“ We all lost a Very Good Man.. Tight Lines , Fritz..... You will be missed.  
Prayers and Blessings..

Mark - December 03, 2020 at 06:00 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.



December 02, 2020 at 11:06 AM

YT

“ *Your Toshiba Installation Services Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.*



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**Your Toshiba Installation Services Team** - December 02, 2020  
at 10:51 AM

YF

“ *Your Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions Fiends purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.*



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**Your Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions Fiends** -  
November 30, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.*



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November 29, 2020 at 06:33 AM

MM

“ *Mary Anne, Annalise, Anastasia, Tony, and Mom purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.*



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**Mary Anne, Annalise, Anastasia, Tony, and Mom** - November  
27, 2020 at 06:44 PM



“ *Heavenly Sentiments Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.*



November 27, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ *Mr.Fritz was my driver's ed teacher at Turkey Creek back in the 60's ,he was a great teacher.He taught me how to parallel park perfectly. I know he will be sadly missed*

**Ava Lumley** - November 26, 2020 at 11:21 PM



“ *Mr. Fritz, You were the BEST father-in-law a girl could ever ask for. I'm going to miss our trips to Horseshoe. Love You, Sheri*



**sheri** - November 25, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ *Mary , we send our love, thoughts and prayers to you and your wonderful family..We will always cherish the fond memories of the many trips and events we shared together.. May the Heavenly Father reach down and embrace each of you. Okie and Peggy Fletcher*

**okie fletcher** - November 24, 2020 at 03:13 PM

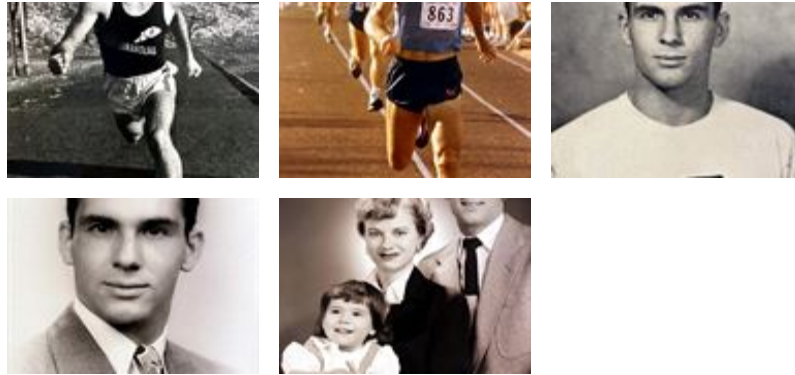
CB

“ *Sherrie My heart breaks for you. I am so sadden by the loss of your father. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult chapter of your life. With love,Carla Bruning*

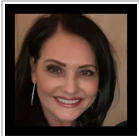
carla bruning - November 24, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *71 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - November 24, 2020 at 10:17 AM

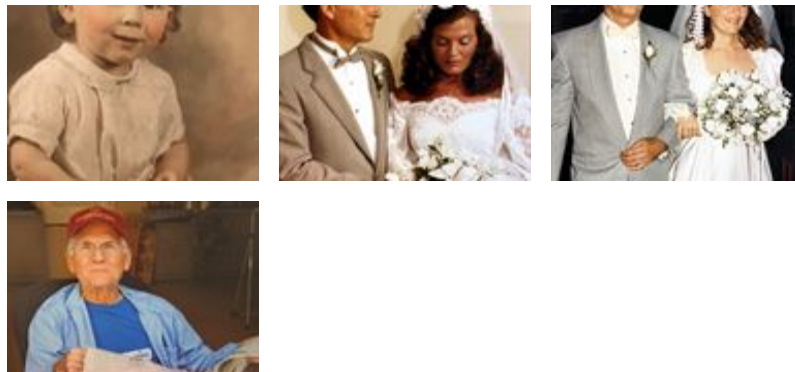


“ *Dear Mary, Sherrie, Patti, Carol, and Ron and family, we are profoundly saddened for the loss of your husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. You are in our prayers during this sad and difficult times. May it help in some small way to know that others care. Love, Julie, Sarah, Kayla, and Christine Holcomb*

Julie Holcomb - November 24, 2020 at 08:58 AM



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Hopewell Funeral Home** - November 23, 2020 at 08:29 PM

KL

“ *My deepest sympathies to you, Patti, and to your family. You obviously get your wonderful coaching/teaching skills from your dad. Praying for you and your family to have peace and strength during this time and always and may the happy memories of your dad fill your heart with joy.*

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**Kathy Lowe** - November 23, 2020 at 09:50 AM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Ron Fritz** - November 23, 2020 at 08:55 AM

WG

“ Coach Fritz was my junior high football coach, my high school track coach and my drivers Ed teacher in the 1960's at Turkey Creek. He will be missed. Rest in peace coach!

Wayne Glover - November 22, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Donald Lee Fritz.



November 22, 2020 at 02:34 PM

MS

“ Sherrie I'm so sorry to hear about your dad..my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Marion Scarboro - November 22, 2020 at 08:52 AM

KF

“ Mary, sending all our love to you and your family. I loved when you and Don came to St Louis to visit please take care. Love Kay, Dan and Jamie Fritz

Kay Fritz - November 21, 2020 at 08:34 PM

BT

“ Marry thinking of you and Girls at this time prayers Barry and Darlene



Barry von Thun - November 21, 2020 at 07:49 PM