



Mr. Alfred Joseph Donohue

January 25, 1920 - September 23, 2013

On September 23, 2013, at age 93, Alfred Joseph Donohue, beloved husband of Dorothy Donohue (nee Gunzelman), dear father of Gerard, Thomas, James and his wife Carol, Robert and his fiancé Katy, John and his wife Liisa, loving grandfather of Kelly, Sean, Brian, Jamison, Andrew, Collin, and Morgan and great grandfather of Isabella, Giuliana and Ellie. He is also survived by his sister, Marjorie, of Brawley, CA. Born in Rockville Center, New York, he served in the Merchant Marines and, after his service to our country, he married Dorothy. They enjoyed sixty five years of happy marriage. Al was the owner of Chesterfield Food Market in Baltimore Maryland for over fifty years.

Cemetery Details

Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery

4430 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21206

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 26. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Visitation

SEP 26. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
6500 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 377-8300
general@mwfuneralhome.com

Prayer Service

SEP 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mitchell - Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc.
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Baltimore, MD 21212
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Tribute Wall

BH

“*Mr. Donohue was a one in a million character. From my point of view, growing up in Mayfield, Mr. Donohue was an entrepreneur, family man, and a philosopher. As a child his store was centrally located for all of our activities and as I got older he would occasionally employ me to help out my friend Joe Culver. After that we always talked when I came by the store. He hooked me on ham sandwiches at least an inch thick and when I attended Jr. college he often talked to me about the subjects I was taking.*

As I got older and was asked to attend a hundred dollar a plate fund raiser, for I think it was Francis Gallager, the only faces I recognized were Al, Dot and I think even Joe Culver. Here I was a freeloader knowing and caring very little about City politics and Al immediately began asking me how I felt about this issue or that issue, needless to say he in his inimitable fashion let me know I should be better informed. At that point I knew Mr. Donohue was a true renaissance man. I have since heard how thoughtful and considerate he was to his loyal customers. Although I haven't seen him for almost thirty five years I and my brothers extend our sincerest sympathy to his family.

Bruce Hood

Bruce Hood - September 27, 2013 at 11:35 PM

BD

“ *Mr. Donohue was the embodiment of all that was wonderful in Mayfield, and stands out as one of my favorite "characters" from childhood. As many have already written, I remember with fondness his sometimes grouchy smile, the well-used apron, the penny candy (especially wax witches near Halloween) and, of course, the snowballs.*

On many nights our dad would watch us when Mom was working at the hospital, and our first stop before picnicking at Herring Run was Donohue's. Mr. Al would bring out the most wonderful ground beef and we would add fresh rolls and chips to the order. He and dad would chat for a bit, and then we would head off to the park. On summer Saturdays, my best friend and I would walk down the alley behind Crossland and wait patiently in line for a skylite or egg custard snowball. Sometimes, it was all that there was to do, but going to Donohue's was a pretty cool way to spend the afternoon.

Thank you to Mr. Al and his family for helping to make growing up in Mayfield a warm and sweet memory. He will be missed. Becky Jorn Decker

Becky Jorn Decker - September 26, 2013 at 03:04 PM

KU

“ Mr. Donohue was such a huge part of everyday life in the Herring Run Park neighborhood. The list of memories is just so long...and entertaining! I remember the old green index card box filled with IOU's from customers, the "just right" selection of penny candy, the affection he showed Mrs. Dot, the care package he sent to our house when my mother had surgery, his sweaty brow and butcher' s apron....the two best memories for me personally are... Mr. Al gave me my first summer job when I was only ten years old. He taught me how to use his snowball maker and set up a table outside. He paid me by the snowball I sold....2 cents for each small and 3 cents for each large. He paid me in pennies at the end of each day and had me count them out myself. The second favorite memory was the time he pulled the comb out of his back pocket and showed me how to make a mouth harp out of it with a piece of tissue paper. He was quite good! We were all so fortunate to have had him in our lives as a friend, a teacher of life's little things, and a stellar example of a hard working family man.

Peace and love to the entire Donohue family.

Karen Udris

karen udris - September 25, 2013 at 01:36 PM

ML

“ *May Lane lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alfred Joseph Donohue*



May Lane - September 24, 2013 at 05:42 PM

LM

I too share the memories posted for Mr. Donohue. I lived on 2700 block of Pelham Ave. My mother would send me almost on a daily basis for great meats and all the fixings for lunch, etc.. He and Miss Dottie were the nicest people you could know. They would go out of their way for their customers and neighbors. Knowing that they lived above the store meant even when it was 6 in. of snow on the ground, Chesterfield Food Market would be open. I will remember him in my prayers, and my deepest sympathy goes to Miss Dottie and their children. May he rest in a well deserved peace.

Lois Raimondi Munchel - September 25, 2013 at 06:30 PM

LH

mr Donohue was want of niece men around here took ca=re of one my soccer coach giving a job work for him I had chance to see mr Donohue in retirment home i blessed to have a couple his kid in soccer baseball us people were luck to have a mr mrs Donohue he bring lot good in that good ave bless you mr Donohue lee hood 9-26-2013

lee hood - September 26, 2013 at 12:16 PM

ML

“ I'm heartbroken to receive this news. My thoughts are with all of you.

I have so many fond memories of Mr. Donohue and trips down to the Chesterfield Food Market (although we always called it "Donohue's"). For me, he'll always be known as Mr. Donohue. He's an icon of the Mayfield neighborhood, and an important part of my childhood. For over 30 years, my mom ordered groceries from Mr. Donohue — and he would deliver them on those hot, summer days, carrying a big, bulging box on his shoulder, his apron showing signs of a recent butchering of beef, yelling in through the screen door "Grocery Man!". I don't think I ever saw anyone work as hard as he did. My sister, brothers, and friends would visit at least once a week to buy baseball cards, Mike and Ikes, Yahoo, Cracker Jack, Mr. Salty pretzels. You could buy a lot with just a nickel, and, most of the time, Mr. Donohue would give you a history or music lesson along with your purchase!

He knew all of his customers. I can remember driving home with my dad from one of my brother Mike's baseball games. Dad pulled up in front of Donohue's store, gave me 35 cents and told me to "buy a pack of L & M's". I was probably about 7 years old. And yes, Mr. Donohue sold them to me. He knew I was one of the Lane kids.

Please know that Mr. Donohue was appreciated and loved by me and family. We won't ever forget him.

May Lane - September 24, 2013 at 02:17 PM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Alfred Joseph Donohue.*



September 24, 2013 at 09:49 AM



“ *Always enjoyed stopping by the store for a Tastycake treat first thing Ssturday morning after I got my fifty cents allowance. RIP*

Les Jorn - September 24, 2013 at 09:45 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

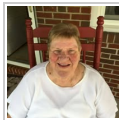


mike lane - September 24, 2013 at 08:11 AM



Thanks Mike! Too many good memories to list of the store and the neighborhood.

Bob Donohue - September 24, 2013 at 08:30 AM



One of the finest people I ever met. He was such a gentleman.

Rose Beall - September 24, 2013 at 09:06 AM

CC

Many happy childhood memories revolve around trips to "Donahue's" (aka Chesterfield Food Market) with friends:)

Carolyn (Barker) Carlino - September 24, 2013 at 09:11 AM

BR

He was a wonderful man. The center of the neighborhood. Rest in peace.<3

Barbara Reiger - September 24, 2013 at 09:27 AM

BP

Donahue's it was. He wouldn't sell me cigarettes when I was 14. This world needs more like him. Thank you Mr. Donahue for looking after me and my friends even when we didn't want you to.

Beth Pacunas - September 24, 2013 at 12:26 PM

LS

On one of my many trips off of Providence Road near Campus Hills (which I think is where Al and Dorothy moved to?) I would think of him and the Donohue family. The last time I saw "Al" was in the hospital at the same time my husband Philip as there. Jerry took me to his room and we had a nice visit. I, too, like so many in Mayfield's area, thought highly of him, his integrity, honesty, compassion and yes, his many stories and bits of information on many subjects. It energy always amazed me as well as his ingenuity. I do not remember any other small grocery store where you could order a side of beef, have it cut into specific cuts and have it delivered, as well. That along with Dot's homemade cakes will always stick in my mind. The makeup of "Mr. Donohue" is a hard act to follow. He is certainly missed.

Lorraine Szczepanski

Lorraine Szczepanski - September 24, 2013 at 05:34 PM

TR

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you John and Liisa. Paul and I remember having wonderful conversations at your house with your dad. He was a character with a wonderful personality.
Terri and Paul Reymann*

Terri Reymann - September 26, 2013 at 07:44 AM