



## Donald Harlow

February 4, 1952 - June 18, 2012

Donald W. Harlow, 60, of Estero, Florida passed away June 18, 2012. He was born February 4, 1952 in Gary, Indiana the son of Casgar and Mary (Dragon) Harlow.

He leaves his sister Marilyn Cates, to cherish his loving memory.

Donald was brought into this world by two of the most loving and special people I have ever known. They treated Donald just like any of their other children.

Back in the 50's it was common for children born with down syndrome to be admitted to an institution and the life expectancy was 12 to 15 years. Grandpa and Grandma Harlow went to visit several institutions and Grandma always left them crying. She said that she could never imagine putting Donald in one of those to live. I always have my mom tell me this story, because it just warms my heart. To imagine growing up without Uncle Donald is just unfathomable. He has impacted my life in so many ways and he has been more than just a blessing. Justin and I have always thought of him as not just an Uncle, but a brother too.

The hardships my grandparents must have went through back then just goes to show you how much they loved him and would be willing to do anything for him to give him the best possible life. And that they did, as well as my mom. Not a day went by where he didn't have a smile on that face. He always said Thank you and appreciated every single thing you did for him. I loved going home to Florida and making his lunches for him and listening to him laugh. There was such an innocence about him. He didn't have a worry in the world, because he could always count on his sister whom he would always call, Marilyn Monroe.

Donald will be greatly missed. We are extremely comforted in the fact that he is now finally at home, with Grandma and Grandpa Harlow and the Lord.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 22nd at 10:30am at Calumet Park Cemetery.

Please click on the Service Schedule Bar to the right for further details.

# Previous Events

## memorial service

SEP **22**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Calumet Park Chapel  
7535 Taft St.  
Merrillville, IN

## Graveside

SEP **22**. 11:30 AM (CT)

Calumet Park Chapel  
7535 Taft St.  
Merrillville, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Harlow*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Donald Harlow*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Dear Cates Family,  
First and foremost I send my deepest sympathies to your family. Although I did not know Donald personally or even met him, but I know Natalie and how much she loved him. Natalie shared stories of Donald very often at our weekly lunch sessions at work and they always left us smiling and laughing with Natalie as she shared them with the most admiration for him. When I was told that Donald had passed I felt very saddened and wanted to let you know that you and your family will remain in my prayers. I hope this reaches you and that you find some comfort in that even someone who had never met Donald found him to be an inspiration and that he touched a strangers heart as well...God Bless!*

Joan Lisby - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Donald had been a very special part of our family for many, many years. Zachary commented that he had many fond memories of going with Grandma and Grandpa to pick up "Donald Duck" and Aunt Nancy at workshop. Donald and Nancy had a special friendship as did the two families. His journey is over, but it was a life well lived. Love to all of you. Bobbi, Patrick, Zachary and of course Nancy.

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**Spires Family** - July 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Uncle Duck,

*I miss you every single day. My heart breaks knowing I won't be seeing your smiling face. I love you so much.*

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**Natalie Cates** - July 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I will always love you Donald.

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**Justin Cates** - July 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Donald was a friend of my cousin, Nancy Harris of Griffith, Indiana. He and Nancy went to school, worked at the Workshop and competed in the Special Olympics together. He was often at family gatherings and we always enjoyed being around him. We used to tease each other about our first names. It was often a jab about who was named Donald first, him or me. He was 8 years older than me but that didn't matter. He was always such a good sport and usually the first thing he said to me was "I had it first!"

*Having a Down Syndrome child in any family is truly a blessing. Knowing Donald taught me understanding, acceptance, inclusion, patience and unconditional love.*

*I am so sorry for your loss and our loss of someone so endearing.*

*Todd Felts*

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**Donald Todd Felts** - July 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Marilyn, Bill and family,  
Thank you so much for posting the pictures. Donald's smile tells the story. He was a joyful, delightful person that enriched the lives of those who knew him.

*He will be greatly missed.*

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**Sheri Weston** - July 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ DONALD WAS A GREAT COUSIN. HE WAS SO NICE AND ALL HIS EXTENDED FAMILY LOVED HIM. I REMEMBER HIM MOST AT ALL THE FAMILY REUNIONS IN PAOLI, INDIANA. HE IS NOW WITH GREAT COMPANY IN HEAVEN. HE DID HAVE A FULL LIFE DUE TO THOSE WHO CARED FOR HIM. LOVE YOU DONALD.

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**ROSEMARY WISEMAN** - July 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Dear Marilyn,

*Word could never express how sorry I am for your loss..... You were an inspiration to me and, I know Donald loved you very much "Marilyn Monroe"....or should I say "Maki" Find comfort in knowing he is with your mom and dad now....they will take care of him from now on. May God give you and your family the strength you need to get through this most difficult time. I love you all.....*

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**Gina Brown** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My deepest condolences Natalie & Family.  
I know how much you loved him. It could be felt from the heart just by the stories when you went home. RIP Donald  
Warm Regards,  
Janine ((Hugs))

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**Janine Fanuzzi** - June 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM