



## Walter "Donnie" Pardue

July 26, 1931 - March 3, 2025

Walter "Donnie" Pardue, age 93, of Bloomington, Indiana, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his beloved wife and close family, after a life well-lived. Born in 1931 to Oscar and Gladys (Hendrickson) Pardue, Donnie grew up in Bloomington alongside his siblings, Anna Lee Pennington, Robert L. "Bob" Pardue and Peggy Jean Pardue. Throughout his life, he shared an unbreakable bond with his family, always holding them close to his heart.

In 1957, Donnie married his high school sweetheart, Melissa Ellis, beginning a 68-year love story that defined his life. Melissa, the sister of Henry P. Ellis and James Ellis, lived just down the street. Their families had long been friends, and Donnie and Melissa's connection was truly special. Though they had no children of their own, their hearts overflowed with love for their many nieces and nephews, who were as dear to them as if their own.

Donnie was deeply loved by his nieces and nephews, including Terri Lee Davidson, Jacque Huffman, Tracy Chandler "Ellis," Deborah Ellis, Kim Shannon and her husband Ike Stearns, Henry P. Ellis II and his wife Jill Ellis, Stacy Bruce "Ellis," Mike Bruce, and many others. His love extended to his great-nieces and great-nephews, whom he affectionately called "the babies." He had a special way of making each of them feel treasured, but his bond with Chloe was truly exceptional—pure and loving. She was by his side in his final moments, whispering in his ear, "You were my best friend." Their love was a

testament to the warmth and kindness that defined Donnie's life.

Donnie dedicated his career to serving the community as a firefighter for the City of Bloomington. Hired on November 24, 1960, he served with distinction for nearly three decades, retiring as Battalion Chief on June 8, 1989. A humble and devoted public servant, he often spoke fondly of his days at the firehouse, the camaraderie he shared with his fellow firefighters, and the moments when he was out on the front lines protecting his community. Even as his memory faded in later years, his stories from the firehouse remained vivid, as if they had happened just yesterday.

After retirement, Donnie and Melissa spent their winters in Estero, Florida, where he found peace and joy in fishing. A passionate fisherman, he loved sharing tales of his fishing adventures with anyone who would listen. From making his own jigs, and digging his worms at low tide, he had a secret for catching the limit every time he went out. Over the years, he built lasting friendships on the water, and in the last 12 years, he found a special bond with Robbie Woodall, who treated Donnie like a father and brought him great comfort and companions.

A man of deep faith, Donnie was a dedicated member of Solsberry Community Church, where he served faithfully for over 40 years. His commitment to his church and his unwavering belief in God were cornerstones of his life. His absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him, especially his beloved wife, Melissa, who will forever hold his memory close to her heart.

Donnie leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and devotion to his family, friends, church, and community. His stories, his kindness, and his love for life will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Back the Line, an organization that supports the families of police, fire, and EMT personnel and Solsberry Community Church.

Visitation for Donnie will be held at Allen Funeral Home (4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, IN 47401) on Monday, March 10, 2025 from 10am-1pm. The funeral service will begin at 1pm on March 10, 2025 at Allen Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Solsberry Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Solsberry Cemetery

Solsberry, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 10.** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

## Funeral Service

**MAR 10.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

# Tribute Wall

NS

“ So sorry for your loss Thinking and praying  
for you at this time

*of your loss Norm and Nancy Sullivan*



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**Nancy Sullivan** - March 10, 2025 at 04:22 PM

SC

“ Steve and Debbie Coomer purchased the Simply  
Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Walter  
"Donnie" Pardue.

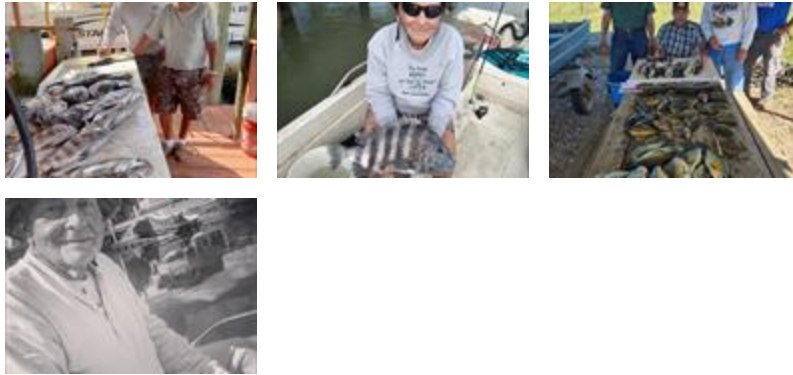


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**Steve and Debbie Coomer** - March 08, 2025 at 07:04 AM

KA

“ Donnie was loved by many but one who loved him tremendously was his “son,” Robbie. They shared such a wonderful friendship over the years. They enjoyed their fishing trips and spending time solving the world’s problems. Robbie thought the world of his Donnie. In Estero, every day was spent on the water with this dynamic duo who always caught the limit. What a beautiful friendship that will missed.



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**kate** - March 07, 2025 at 12:41 PM

KJ

“ When we moved in across the street from Don and Melissa in 2007, Melissa was the first neighbor to come over with a plate of cookies, and they have seen us through our children's graduations, college, army, and grandchildren. Don loved to waive to the kids, and they loved running over for a quick visit. He will be missed dearly. Jeff and Kim Jerome, and children Samantha Kimbro and Ryan Jerome.

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**Kim Jerome** - March 07, 2025 at 11:25 AM

GR

“ To Melissa and family, we offer you our sincere condolences. We cherish good memories spent in Mariners Cove. You were a Beautiful couple with hearts of gold! Canadian friends, Don and Gisèle Robichaud. Prayers for you and your family!

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**Gisele Robichaud** - March 07, 2025 at 08:50 AM

NG

“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you remembering our Florida visits. Nancy Goodman

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**Nancy Goodman** - March 06, 2025 at 06:20 PM

JM

“ Donnie was my battalion chief when I was hired as the first female firefighter. He made the transition easy for me, was a great mentor and a lot of fun. RIP Donnie, and I hope you find those Catalpa worms in the sky.

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**jean magrane** - March 06, 2025 at 05:23 PM

SM

“ Our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to Melissa and all family and friends. We have wonderful memories of our visits to Florida where Donnie would treat us to boat rides down the Estero River, and fishing too. Then Melissa would treat us to a delicious fish dinner. Donnie was such a good, God fearing man and loved everyone. He will be missed. RIP our sweet cousin. Sherry & Bubba Martin

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**Sherry Martin** - March 06, 2025 at 12:00 PM