



## Donald Hartford Birnie Jr.

October 25, 1950 - July 8, 2017

Donald Hartford Birnie, born October 25, 1950. Jr died suddenly doing what he loved, playing classic rock music for his fans. His last song, "Summer of '69" was a fitting tribute to his life. He was a graduate of Worthington High School Class of '68. At the insistence of his mother, he finished his studies at The Ohio State University. He played in several local bands as guitarist and vocals including Eddie Pollina and then toured the US with a band called Southern Flavor. Don returned home and cared for his older brother Jim, in the family home for twenty plus years. He married Pam Slone in 2002. He is preceded in death by his parents, Donald Sr. and Josephine Birnie and his brother Jim. Donald is survived by his wife Pam, siblings Melissa Hild (Don), and Richard Birnie (Debbie); daughter Toni Wise (Will), grandchildren Michael and Sidney Flannery and Elise Wise, nieces and nephews Andrew and Kyle Lewis, Phil Birnie and Lauren Windle. On Sunday, July 30, a Celebration of Life will be held at his lifelong home in Worthington.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Hartford Birnie Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Don was one of the funniest guys ever but looking back he was also a great vocalist and very talented guitar player. Possibly I took him for granted because he never held up the learning of new material in Southern Flavor or made a mistake on stage. I also never saw him give less than 100% on stage. He was a real pro underneath all the jokes and fun times. RIP Don. Our prayers go out to Pam and their family.*

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**Steve** - July 23, 2017 at 09:44 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald Hartford Birnie Jr..*



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July 20, 2017 at 04:33 PM

RL

“ Don tried to act the "tough guy" during his 10 or so years with us in Random Moment. "You aren't special", he always reminded me. Still, I treasure all the times I would get an unexpected phone call from Don. "I am taking a mental health day." he would say. Then we would talk for a couple of hours about how the dark times always pass.

The "tough" guy's tears landed on my cheek when he hugged me and grieved when he lost his beloved cat, Bugger. I knew Don cared and for some strange reason, he didn't want Rick and I to know. That's OK, we understood what Don was about. Our friendship was complicated, peppered with aggravation and laughs all at the same time.

Playing music with Don was some of the "best days of my life."  
Wanna Woman and Ricky Lee will miss you terribly, Don Man.  
Thanks for the memories.

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**Rick and Lawana Lanning** - July 15, 2017 at 12:33 PM

BG

“ Recently, Don, Mike Newhart and myself began playing at open mikes. I've known Don since The Beatles played Ed Sullivan. He showed me how to play "The Last Time in '65. The three of us were having a great time playing out. Don was a wonderful person with a great sense of humor and a great musician and vocalist with a tuned in ear. From one guitarist to another Don, I miss you. Brian Gilbert

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**Brian Gilbert** - July 12, 2017 at 01:06 AM

RC

“ I'm so very sorry for the loss of Don. Praying for all of you who loved him and sending so much love to your family.  
*Rachel and Mark Conwell (Richard's niece)*

Rachel Conwell - July 11, 2017 at 08:13 PM

TM

“ Pam, our hearts and thoughts are with you and your family. Don was such a wonderful man and he will be sorely missed by all those whose lives he had touched.

Tammy & Michael Makar - July 11, 2017 at 05:05 PM

PC

“ those of us lucky enough to be invited to Don's annual memorial day party back in the day. You see Don would send these invites and it would take time to descibe gathering and boy did Don know how to throw a party the food was always hope our dear GOD loves your sense of humor as much as I do  
*Rest In Peace my old friend Rest In Peace.*  
*Phil and Susanne Caldwell*  
*Nashville, Tn. 37209*

Phil and Susanne Caldwell - July 11, 2017 at 02:26 AM

MB

*Don used to send me those invitations too. Loved them and the follow-up letters that he would send. Couldn't afford to get there back in those days but I sure wanted too and plotted to go "next year". Yes, Rest In Peace Don. And Brother Jimmy too.  
You will be missed by many.*

Marlin Butcher - July 20, 2017 at 03:49 PM

BF

*So sorry to hear about Don. I always enjoyed working with him, Don always had a smile on his face. Prayers to his family*

Becky Fabbro - July 21, 2017 at 02:50 PM

CM

“ I worked with Don 3 separate times, and was always so impressed at how hard he worked, how much time he put into his music craft, and how he never complained about being the first to come and the last to leave. It wasn't until 2017 that I discovered what a good guitarist and singer he was. He joined our Friday night jam sessions, and asked me to play guitar a few times, to my delight.

*Still laughing at his cookie monster t-shirt and funny Facebook quips. You'll be missed, Don.*

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**Chaz Mechenbier** - July 10, 2017 at 11:51 AM