



Donald Nathaniel Valentine

March 11, 2020

Mr. Donald Valentine passed away peacefully on Wednesday March 11 at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Naomi Nishimura, who was the love of his life. Don was a beloved orchestra teacher in the Upper Arlington Schools for 35 years. He impacted hundreds of young people with his loving, encouraging and kind spirit. Don and Naomi spent many years of their lives focusing on Don's love of teaching orchestral music to his students who they treated like their own children. He graduated from South High School in 1957 and from The Ohio State University after serving 4 years in the US Air Force. During his service, he was stationed in Japan where he met Naomi. He was actively involved in many activities including the Arthritis Foundation Car Show where he was honored with a special tribute and won a 1st Place trophy last June. Don and Naomi loved to travel, especially enjoying cruises and going back to Japan. Don was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Ollie Valentine, and his brothers Ronald, Daniel and Timothy Valentine. He is survived by his wife Naomi, cousins John and Aaron Drakeford, long-time dear friend Dave Garman, friends Alan and Terry Starr, and hundreds of orchestra students who were part of Don's family. We would like to thank the kind and caring staff of Brookdale Muirfield and the Brookdale Muirfield Hospice team. Arrangements are being handled by Rutherford Funeral Homes. Condolences may be sent to 3820 Rushmore Drive, Upper Arlington, OH 43220. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Inurnment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Nathaniel Valentine*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Dear Naomi:*

We send our sincere condolences to you. Don was such an amazing man. So bright. So talented. So gifted in his ability to teach all ages of strings students and bring out the best of their abilities. He was so encouraging. He never had a stronger word of disappointment than “Hamburger!” when he knew a student had not practiced enough. He brought together all kinds of students and praised them for their ability to play sports, get good grades and whatever their interests were...and to play string instruments. He worked his teaching schedule in your home around the students’ other activities at times...amazingly flexible! And he was so involved in other interests beyond teaching...he loved cars, his businesses in Japan and you! He was a man for all seasons and he will be greatly missed.

We sincerely hope that your loving memories will ease your sorrow. We will keep you in our prayers.

Ed and Nancy Sneed

Nancy Sneed - March 16, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ *The South High School Alumni Association and its Board of Directors want to express our sympathy and send condolences at the death of your loved one. Our entire South High School family is diminished by his passing.*

South High School Alumni Association - March 14, 2020 at 10:06 PM