

George DuBois Donaldson

December 27, 1928 - January 23, 2019

George DuBois Donaldson, 90, passed away on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at his home in Lebanon, Indiana, surrounded by his loving family and pastor. He was born in Lebanon on December 27, 1928, the third son of the late Fred Raymond and Esther Anne (Coombs) Donaldson.

George was a life-long resident of Lebanon. He graduated from Lebanon High School in 1946. He attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950.

He served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953 where he did an 18-month tour on the battlefields of Korea during the Korean War earning the rank of Sergeant.

George married the love of his life, Margaret "Peg" (Ping) Donaldson, on September 13, 1953. They enjoyed over 40 years of marriage before Peg passed away on May 2, 1994.

George managed the Pinnell-Coombs Lumber Yard in Lebanon from 1955 until 1966 when he and Peg purchased a small local chocolate business from Charles and Eva Callane. In addition, George worked as an officer at Union Federal Savings & Loan and later at Citizens Bank, both in Lebanon, while he

and Peg grew the business that became known as Donaldson's Finer Chocolates.

Donaldson's Finer Chocolates became a household name in central Indiana and has sold chocolates all over the world. The business has earned numerous awards, including: Retail Confectioners International (RCI) Best of Show-2007, Best Business in Boone County – 2014, Indy-A-List #1 Best Chocolates, and Indy Chocolate Fest 2015-Judge's Favorite. George's oldest son, Bob joined the business in 2010, and his wife Kathy soon followed in 2013, and it continues to thrive to this day.

In addition to the company awards, George received numerous individual awards and recognitions. In 2006 as a part of the 40th anniversary of Donaldson's Chocolates, then Mayor Jim Acton declared October 28 as "George Donaldson Appreciation Day" and awarded him a key to the City. In 2008 George was named Boone County Business Person of the Year. In 2016 as a part of the 50th anniversary of Donaldson's Chocolates, George received the prestigious Distinguished Hoosier Award signed by then Governor Mike Pence and awarded to George by then Lieutenant Governor Eric Holcomb in a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse. That same year George received his second key to the City of Lebanon from Mayor Matt Gentry at a special City Council meeting presentation.

As a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, George loved his family, and their activities. George was very active in the community and belonged to many organizations. He was a member of Ulen Country Club, Oak Hill Cemetery Board, VFW Post #910 Lebanon, and Rotary Club of Lebanon.

Perhaps most of all, George was a man of faith and a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. He served multiple times as an elder on the Session of First

Presbyterian Church in Lebanon. He was a strong supporter of the Presbyterian Preschool Ministry where he also served on its Board. He supported the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in many ways including serving as a volunteer when crusades were held in Indiana.

George is survived by his three loving sons, G. Robert "Bob" Donaldson (Kathy), William R. "Bill" Donaldson (Cathy), and Bruce D. Donaldson (Robon). Also surviving are grandchildren Megan (Frank) Thompson, Amy (Jon) Riley, Joe (Laura) Donaldson, Ben (Kelly) Donaldson, Austin Fry and Grant Fry, and sister-in-law Sara Donaldson. He leaves 10 great-grandchildren who affectionately called him "Great Grandpa Chocolate."

In addition to his parents and wife, George was preceded in death by two brothers, Dr. Frank C. Donaldson and John W. Donaldson.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at Myers Mortuary, 1502 North Lebanon Street, in Lebanon, Indiana.

Funeral Services are planned for 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 28, 2019 with visitation one hour prior at the First Presbyterian Church, 128 East Main, Lebanon, Indiana with Rev. Terri Thorn officiating. Entombment with military rites will follow services at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lebanon, Indiana.

Memorials may be made in George's honor to the Presbyterian Preschool Ministry, 128 E Main Street, Lebanon, IN 46052.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

935 East Washington Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Myers Mortuary
1502 North Lebanon Street
Lebanon, IN 46052
(765) 482-0620
office@myersmortuary.com
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
128 East Main Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Service

JAN 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
128 East Main Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Tribute Wall



“ *George DuBois Donaldson*

November 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ *Karen lit a candle in memory of George DuBois Donaldson*



Karen - February 19, 2019 at 02:06 PM



“ *Sincere sympathy!
He was a generous giving man, and appreciated his loyal customers. Thankful for his giving back to make Lebanon a better place to call home!*



Dennis Smith - January 29, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ *ON BEHALF OF THE COMRADES AND SISTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR THE LOSS OF YOUR LOVED ONE AND OUR DEPARTED COMRADE. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL. SINCERELY VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA STATE CHAPLAIN KEISTON R. HOLLOWAY*

KEISTON R. HOLLOWAY - January 28, 2019 at 03:21 PM

BF

“ We are very sad over the passing of Mr. Donaldson. We were looking forward to attending his 90th birthday party.

Our family has known Mr. Donaldson and enjoyed his fine chocolates 25 years. We made numerous trips to IU medical center and we could stop and place an order and pick it up on our return to Chicago. He would always insist on a bag for candy for the ride home.

Seeing George was always a highlight of our trips. Occasionally we would ride down to get our candy and go to lunch at Porkeys. While it is a great loss for his family and the community it is also a tremendous loss for his countless friends. We were fortunate to consider him a friend. So every time we have a Donaldson piece of candy we will think of George and the way we love his candy, we will be thinking of him often..

Susan Bill and Matthew Filstead Arlington Heights IL

Bill Filstead - January 28, 2019 at 12:51 PM

TF

George was the finest gentleman with an exquisite smile and... he had CANDY!!!!.....LOTS OF IT!!!! What a fabulous soul. We would visit back and forth to the lake house. Our condolences to his loving family and staff. The Money family.

The Money Family - January 29, 2019 at 11:21 PM

TF

“ *What a kind and gentle soul! Our daughter is in college and was so sad when we told her that George had passed. He spoiled her with treats each time we were in the shop and the two of them always talked golf. George was so kind the first time I saw him after my Dad had died. It is never easy to lose a parent, no matter how old we are or they are. May the family find comfort in knowing that he is reunited with Peg. George will be part of the fond memories of so many people.*

Kevin, Susan, and Megan Sosbe

The Sosbe Family - January 27, 2019 at 05:18 PM

BT

“ *Our sympathy to the family of George Donaldson. He was a wonderful person.*

Fred and Barbara Tanselle

Barbara Tanselle - January 27, 2019 at 03:28 PM

JM

“ *I was very sad to hear the news about George. My law firm in Chicago has been sending Donaldson chocolates as gifts every Christmas for 20 years and dealing with George was always a great pleasure. He was always kind and reminded me of my Boone County roots. He will be missed. Jay Mitchell*

Jay Mitchell - January 26, 2019 at 03:53 PM

JF

“ Jeanette, Sue, Cindy, Joe, Kelly, and Families purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.



Jeanette, Sue, Cindy, Joe, Kelly, and Families - January 26, 2019 at 01:47 PM

RU

“ Rudys/Fleets/Mitchells/Lowensteins/Kaminkers purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.



Rudys/Fleets/Mitchells/Lowensteins/Kaminkers - January 26, 2019 at 12:36 PM

PB

“ Sincere condolences to the Donaldson Family. We didn't know the gentleman, but always stop at the shop when traveling to Chicago from North Carolina. We feel like part of a big extended family.
Phyllis and Philip Bentley

phyllis bentley - January 26, 2019 at 12:00 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.



January 26, 2019 at 11:29 AM

JA

“ I have known George for over 40 years. I worked at the candy shop in high school (he and Peg never minded that I ate as much as I sold) and then when my sister, Kathy, married Bob. I will miss him forever. His good humor and kindness always made it such a joy to visit the shop. He would always save a box of something special when he knew I was coming to visit. Godspeed George.

Janice - January 26, 2019 at 10:48 AM

DM

“ To Bob, Bill, Bruce and the entire family, we send our deepest sympathies for the loss of a truly great man. Our memories go back as far as grade school, baseball, Schultz and loads of good chocolate! He will be greatly missed but his legend remains.

Dave and Meg Miller - January 26, 2019 at 09:08 AM

BM

“ Donaldson's was a family tradition started by my father and handed down to me. I carried on the chocolate tradition despite never having a taste for it because of Mr. Donaldson. What a truly fine and kind man we have lost. Please and comfort to his family and his work family. All enjoyed his kindness and gentility. God Bless.

Betsy Mitchell - January 26, 2019 at 07:39 AM

BI

“ Dittos to all the previous memories. 40 years ago I was a student at DePauw, and being from Georgia, it was too far to go home for Thanksgiving so Bruce would invite me to come home with him. George and Peg took me in and treated me like family and I've been a part of their family ever since. I was so grateful to visit with George one last time a year and a half ago on our way to the Georgia/N.D. football game. He was the same ole George and anyone who knew him knows exactly what that means! He touched so many lives in so many wonderful ways and I believe this will be his legacy-evident by the previous posts. We've all been blessed knowing George Donaldson.

Billy Wahl

Bill - January 26, 2019 at 03:11 AM

AF

“ It has been a pleasure and an honor to have known such a beautiful person. I often brought family and friends visiting from Sweden to see Mr Donaldson and buy his lovely chocolate. He was always so interested in where people came from and everyone got to place a pin on his world map. I've since moved to Australia but visited Indiana in June last year and went to see George. My thoughts are with his family and I'm sure our dear George is looking down on us all with a smile as he shares some chocolate with his beloved God.

Anna Foley - January 26, 2019 at 01:53 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.*



January 25, 2019 at 11:34 PM



“ *I regularly stopped at Donaldson's for Chocolates for my family and staff during frequent trips from Highland to Indianapolis. Mr. Donaldson was often there and would be kind and talk chocolates and about my staff and family. US Senate Chaplain Peter Marshal observed that life should be measured less in terms of its duration and much more in terms of its donation. The test of this donation is the answer to the question Will you be missed? Mr. Donaldson, your life is very much one of great donation. Sir, by me and so many you will be very missed. I commend my prayers and affirming thoughts to the Donaldson Family.*
Michael Griffin & Family. Town of Highland.

Michael Griffin, Town of Highland - January 25, 2019 at 11:01 PM



“ *Bob, Kathy and the rest of your family my sympathies for George's loss. He was such a warm, sweet man, a friend to all, a man of integrity and a great boss at the chocolate shop. My first experience of eating his delicious candy was as a little girl when my dad, John Henry, would stop at the old schoolhouse for a sweet treat. It was also a tradition at Christmas to have a box of Donaldson's Chocolates. Fond memories to all. Diana (Henry) (Yount) Hallett*

Diana Hallett - January 25, 2019 at 09:05 PM

NC

“ I met George on my almost weekly drives from Columbus to Chicago from 2009 through 2013 to watch my son play football for Northwestern University. He always loved my stories about my son. To my delight, he loved seeing me in my tribute football jersey #95. Absolutely he made the best chocolates. I can only eat the sugar free, but his was better than any other I've ever tasted. My friends and family became fans of his chocolate in all the many varieties. RIP George! Heaven is just that much more sweeter because you're there.

Novecia Custis
Gahanna, Ohio

Novecia Custis - January 25, 2019 at 08:08 PM

AW

“ I discovered Donaldson's Chocolate shop in recent years while making visits to Indianapolis and met George briefly on one of the visits. His work ethic and devotion to making a great product were clear. I'll always be a fan of the chocolate shop. My sympathies to the family and friends.

Alane Watkins - January 25, 2019 at 07:25 PM

RS

“ I was a regular customer on my trips to Indiana from California and Virginia and always enjoyed stopping by, both for the fabulous chocolate and for the warmth Mr. Donaldson expressed though his business. Every pushpin on his world map represents someone who was touched by him and will miss him.

Ronald Salazar - January 25, 2019 at 04:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.*



January 25, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ *We were George and family since before we were married...45 years ago...when thw shop was in the schoolhouse. We are so, so sorry for your loss. What a wonderful person... Barbara and Tom Smith*

Thomas Andrew Smith - January 25, 2019 at 03:02 PM



“ *Heartfelt sympathy to the many family and friends. Many great memories surrounds his fine candies. Will be greatly missed and I have no doubt he was met by those in heaven with open arms.*

Joyce - January 25, 2019 at 02:41 PM

CH

“ The words are hard to find to reflect how much Uncle George meant to me. He and Aunt Peggy were an important part of my childhood and her loss was made so much easier because of Uncle George. Through the years he was always there to help me remember her. They were the perfect pair too. He loved her dearly and she sure loved him. Why wouldn't she? He was the kindest and sweetest man around, always thinking of others, proud of his family; all the kids and grands and great grands were his joy. As someone else said, he is, no doubt, hearing from his Lord and Savior, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." He lived his faith in everything he did. Happy reunion in heaven with all those gone before, Uncle George. And to his family... May you be blessed and comforted by all the treasured memories you have and the knowledge that George had a wonderful life with all of you. He died a happy man. Cindy (Ping) Holmes

Cindy Lu Holmes - January 25, 2019 at 02:14 PM

BM

“ God bless "Uncle George"! Our heartfelt sympathies to Bob, Kathy, Bill, Cathy, Bruce, Robon and the rest of the family.

*Bob, Regene & Katy Magnussen
Houston, Texas*

Bob Magnussen - January 25, 2019 at 01:52 PM

RM

“ George Donalson was as fine a man as I have ever known. He was a Christian in every sense of the word. After my husband died George took it upon himself to deliver Chocolate Turtles to me and my kids every year at Christmas . He had continued interest in how we were getting by and never failed to ask after my children. I will miss his kindness and sweet smile. My condolence to all who loved him and I know there are many.

Rae Myers

Rae Myers - January 25, 2019 at 01:43 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.



January 25, 2019 at 01:03 PM

DC

“ Are trips to and from Purdue were always made "sweeter" by a visit to Donaldson's and especially sweeter if the "Willy Wonka of Boone Cty., was there. He was a sheer joy to talk to and always had a smile for us. My daughter and i are truly going to miss are special friend. May his memory be of a blessing to all who knew and loved this special man. Dona Cohen

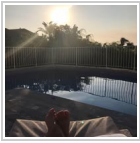


Dona Cohen - January 25, 2019 at 12:51 PM

MF

“ Love and hugs to all of you. ..George is a wonderful person--loves the Lord and his family with his whole heart! I remember when George "got down " (literally) break dancing on the dance floor at Jon and Amy's wedding, then laughed when we had to help him up! He was 83 at the time! We'll miss you, George! Mike and Mary Riley

Mike and Mary Riley and family - January 25, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ On behalf of the Jerry Kerr Family, we send our sympathies to the family. Mr. Donaldson was a very nice man and made the best candy! Every holiday my mom would specific candy items for us. Easter bunnies, Santa Clauses and much more. He will be missed by all who knew him and we send our love to the Donaldson family.

Kerr Wylam - January 25, 2019 at 11:23 AM

TF

“ We are so very sorry to hear of the passing of George. He was one of the best. Loved by all who knew him. He worked so hard everyday to have the best candy anywhere. He was always at work, no matter how tired he was. He never complained. He has customers from all over the world. He certainly will be missed. May God be with the family now and in the days to come.



The Stuteville Family - January 25, 2019 at 10:54 AM

GL

“ *What a fine gentleman. Our families have great memories of Uncle George and Aunt Peg. We will miss him dearly.*

*Gary & Michele Lehman
Lafayette*

Gary & Michele Lehman - January 25, 2019 at 10:34 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.*



January 25, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.*



January 25, 2019 at 09:24 AM

BP

“ *Bob Potts purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of George DuBois Donaldson.*



Bob Potts - January 25, 2019 at 09:01 AM

EM

“ *Emma Meadows lit a candle in memory of George DuBois Donaldson*



emma meadows - January 25, 2019 at 08:56 AM

CS

“ *Cindy Swartz lit a candle in memory of George DuBois Donaldson*



Cindy Swartz - January 25, 2019 at 08:27 AM

AD

“ *What a wonderful man and example to so many in our community and really, the world. Not only did he make great chocolate, he did it with a smile and kindness. We will have a salted carmel in his honor! Anita Dale & family*

Anita Dale - January 25, 2019 at 08:20 AM

MS

“ *What a great man--we were in same class and I remember when at class reunions he always brought some candy...I live in FL and always when returning to Lebanon I would always go to get candy....God Bless his family.*

margaret smith - January 25, 2019 at 07:46 AM

JM

“ Jason Morey lit a candle in memory of George DuBois Donaldson



Jason Morey - January 25, 2019 at 07:16 AM

JK

“ So sorry for your loss. One thing for sure you had a great Dad . Prayers for you all during for this time of loss. Joe Kammerer .

Joe Kammerer - January 25, 2019 at 06:21 AM

DL

“ What a great man George was ! My dad always talked about George and my mom thought there was no better candy than Donaldson Candy! Loved to go out there myself and indulge in in some good old chocolate candy. I am sure George will be missed by many because he never met a stranger! Prayers to the family!

Debby Lowe - January 25, 2019 at 05:22 AM

LW

“ I am so sorry to hear this. George was always one of my favorite people. My deepest condolences to the family.

Laura (Niemann) Warren-Hughes

Laura (Niemann) Warren-Hughes - January 24, 2019 at 11:20 PM

TR

“ One of the kindest men I have ever met. I loved seeing his mischievous smile. He loved everyone and I take comfort in the fact that he is once again with his wife and I believe the streets in heaven are lined with chocolate from our very own candy man. George was a friend and mentor to many, and the world and our community will miss him tremendously! Loved when he would have groups in and let you see and help make some bark or dip candy, and he would always offer you a free taste. 🙏❤️🙏 Prayers to his family and also those who spent everyday working with him, as he treated them like family too.

Tami and Mark Richardson - January 24, 2019 at 10:49 PM

LA

“ I will always fondly remember going to Donaldson's as a child and getting the “special treatment.” One of a kind place and one of a kind man. My father has sent me his chocolates annually since we were children. And now my husband does the same. Mr. Donaldson was a great man.

laura - January 24, 2019 at 09:56 PM

KL

“ George Donaldspn was loved by all. He used to work at Union Federal Savings and Loan in Lebanon with my late husband. He was one of the the kindest, sweetest men I have ever known. Just saw him in the candy shop in December. He seemed to be doing well and was smiling telling me all about his upcoming birthday. I am so glad he saw that birthday. God bless you George; I know you and John will probably be painting barns up there in Heaven. RIP George, you are one of God's Saints.

Karen Lasley-Maue - January 24, 2019 at 09:08 PM

Cyndi Miller

“ George Donaldson was one of the most genuine, sincere, faithful men I have ever met. He always had a smile, and a hug, for me and my boys. I loved him like a grandfather, and admired him for his caring and generosity. I can imagine the first words God spoke to him, as he entered Heaven "well done, my good and faithful son. welcome to the place where you belong". Until we meet again.....

Cyndi Miller - January 24, 2019 at 08:17 PM

PW

“ George was one of the kindest men I have ever known and to know , he loved his wife and still shared her pink carnations . An amazing kind man will be missed. 😞

pam wagoner - January 24, 2019 at 05:36 PM

PW

“ Pam Wagoner lit a candle in memory of George DuBois Donaldson



pam wagoner - January 24, 2019 at 05:33 PM

SB

“ Sally Byrd-Warmoth lit a candle in memory of George DuBois Donaldson



Sally Byrd-Warmoth - January 24, 2019 at 03:59 PM