



## Donald "Red" DeCotis

October 22, 1927 - February 15, 2018

Donald "Red" DeCotis was born to Decio and Angela DeCotis in Utica, New York on October 22, 1927. His parents had both immigrated to the United States from Italy in the early 20th century. Donald was named for his maternal grandfather, Donato.

Growing up in the Italian community of upstate New York, with his brother Alfonso ("Funzi") and sister MaryAnn, all three redheads, they went to school, worked and enjoyed a large extended family. Don loved baseball immensely, and was an excellent second baseman. He shined shoes and worked with his father at a mill and a tool and die factory as a teenager. Funzi (Red #1) and Donald (Red #2) loved to spend summers with their grandparents so they could be with their uncles.

As a young man, Donald joined the army and upon his discharge, took a cross country trip with his buddies to California and never forgot that wonderful time. He also had a long time interest in aviation and sports.

While playing pool in Utica one night he was approached by a vivacious auburn young woman. However, he did not ask her to dance. So once smitten, she brought her mother to the pool hall to secure a date. Donald and Mary Cangi married soon after at St. John's Catholic Church in Rome, New York. As terrific dance partners and lovers of good food, they raised their three

children and filled their lives with friends, often playing canasta late into the night.

Donald moved with his family to San Antonio, Texas in 1965 and worked at Kelly Air Force Base as a Logistics Chief before his retirement, having worked for 35 years as a civil servant. In addition to being completely devoted to his wife and family, Don had special affection for pets, gardening and cooking. He relished watching sports and rooting for the New York Giants whenever he could. His greatest pride was in his children, loving them for exactly who they were; always providing love, support and protection even before he was asked.

For his grandchildren, Donald established an after-school school in his home. For years, he fetched them from school and helped Jennifer, and then later Danielle and Donnie, do their homework and eat snacks while waiting for their parents to finish the work day. In his humble fashion, he made his wife, Mary, the principal and himself the custodian.

As a long-time member of St. Matthew's parish in San Antonio, Don was an usher and a member of the Knights of Columbus. His faith gave him comfort in his declining years, always believing in the goodness of others. His tender gratitude and buoyant attitude of "life is wonderful" marked his last years here in this life.

Donald passed on February 15, 2018 and is survived by his wife of almost 67 years Mary; children Denise McCauley and her husband, Rusty, Karen DeCotis, and Don DeCotis and his wife, Jonnie; grandchildren, Jennifer, Wendy, Kelley, Laura, Danielle, Donnie, and Yujun; 5 great grandchildren, many other relatives and a lifetime of friends.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial contribution to the San Antonio chapter of the Alzheimer's Association - <https://www.alz.org/sanantonio/>



# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

FEB **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church  
10703 Wurzbach Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78230

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ There was one person in our fiery Italian families that I looked up to, admired and loved. His casual smiling demeanor always made a person feel welcomed and comfortable in his presence. It seems like yesterday that I entered adulthood in the Catholic Religion. He said "Of Course" when I asked him to be my Godfather. We all grieve the loss of the patriarch of our clans. I grieve for my Godfather as well.

*God Speed Don!*

*Casey and Jerry*



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**Jerry Cangi** - February 22, 2018 at 04:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald "Red" DeCotis.



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February 20, 2018 at 07:28 PM

ML

“ Michael&Deborah Cangl and Christopher&Cara Landers purchased the Glorious Memories Garland for the family of Donald "Red" DeCotis.



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Michael&Deborah Cangl and Christopher&Cara Landers -  
February 20, 2018 at 11:07 AM

KD

“ A wonderful poem that helps put death into a beautiful perspective:

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and stranght. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone says: "There, she is gone."*

*"Gone where?"*

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear the load of lifting freight to her destined port.*

*Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" There are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"*

*And that is dying....*

*- Henry Van Dyke*

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Karen DeCotis - February 19, 2018 at 03:16 PM

TF

“ The Ancira family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Donald "Red" DeCotis.



The Ancira family - February 18, 2018 at 06:25 PM

DB

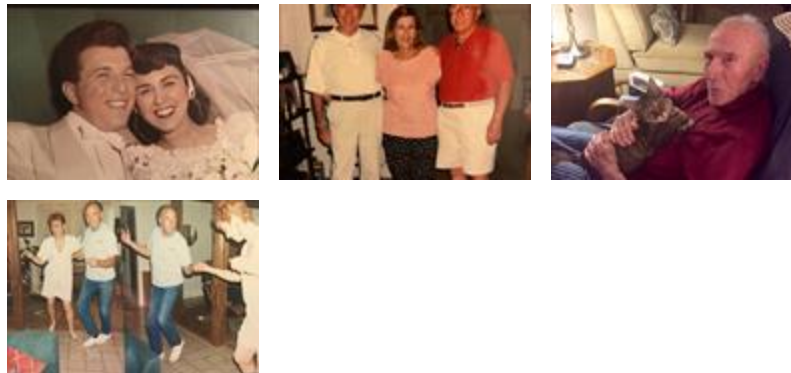
“ Dick and Lana Breakie purchased the Gerberas and Palms Spray for the family of Donald "Red" DeCotis.



Dick and Lana Breakie - February 18, 2018 at 05:52 PM

DM

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 02:53 PM

DM

“ Don Decotis was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:56 AM

DM

“ Karen Decotis was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:55 AM

DM

“ Denise Decotis - mccauley was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:54 AM

DM

“ Mary Decotis was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:53 AM

DM

“ Maryann Decotis - perry was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:53 AM

DM

“ Alfonso Decotis was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:52 AM

DM

“ Angela Decotis was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:52 AM

DM

“ Decio Decotis was added to the Family Tree.

Denise McCauley - February 17, 2018 at 10:52 AM

DM

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Denise McCauley** - February 17, 2018 at 10:49 AM

DF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**DeCotis Family** - February 16, 2018 at 01:26 PM