



Donald Paul Hymel

November 16, 1946 - May 29, 2023

Don Hymel was born in El Paso, TX, the youngest son of Beth and Eddie Hymel. Soon after high school graduation in 1964, he enlisted in the USAF. In 20 years of service, he spent time in Alaska, England, Texas, Vietnam, Crete, and Maryland. He and Mary Lou met in England and married in San Antonio in 1977. Don retired from the Air Force in 1984 and followed Mary Lou to Germany, Virginia, and back to England as a dependent husband. He earned a BA in History and an MS in Political Science. In San Antonio, Don began a second career in education publishing. He worked in a community theater for many years. He also played music in bands and as a solo act until his death. He wrote songs, poetry, plays, and short stories. Don volunteered with Owl Radio, reading the newspaper for the visually impaired. He never met a stranger. He was always willing to help young artists who needed an actor. He loved sports, playing baseball and softball and soccer and tennis. Don and Mary Lou had many adventures together and lived life to the fullest!

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 10. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Unitarian Universalist Church
7150 IH 10 Access Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78213

Tribute Wall



“ Don was so gifted, so multi-talented, yet he always spoke generously to others when they had some small part in a service-- including me. I will miss his wacky sense of humor--always kind and coming at you in some spontaneous and unexpected way. And then there was his singing, sometimes tender, sometimes powerful, often drawing tears around the room. "I was born by a river..." Oh, yes! A change is gonna come, but all too soon.--Mary Grace

Mary Grace Ketner - June 10, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ Rhonda M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Paul Hymel.

Rhonda M. - June 07, 2023 at 04:20 PM

RK

“Don was a beautiful person brimming with humanity and warmth. He always met me with energetic sincerity. And I loved his singing, with and without his wonderful wife Mary Lou. I’ll miss him very much—I already do.

One little memory: at some point I began to pester Don to listen to the Tom Waits song Come On Up To The House, and then consider singing it. Eventually he did, and he moved me and everyone else who were lucky enough to hear him sing his lovely rendition, so soulful and somehow so Don. The song resonates even more now that he is no longer in the room:

*“You gotta come on up to the house
Come on up to the house
The world is not my home
I’m just a-passing through
You got to come on up to the house”*

Richard Keith - June 06, 2023 at 05:25 PM