



## Dennis John McDonald

August 10, 1941 - March 4, 2026

Dennis John McDonald was born in Rochester, Michigan, on August 10, 1941, to John and Enid McDonald. He was a Christian man who loved his family and adhered to the values of respect and godliness. Dennis grew up in Rochester and graduated from Rochester High School. He attended Cedarville College in Ohio for his bachelor degree in Elementary Education and excelled at baseball to such an extent that he signed for the Detroit Tigers before sustaining an injury that brought an end to his professional baseball aspirations. After recovering from his injury, he returned to school to earn his masters degree in Special Education/Autism at Wayne State University in Michigan, and his post-graduate degree at Central Michigan University as an Education Specialist. He spent his fifty-year professional career working in education, teaching and mentoring students with special needs before moving into an administrative role. Dennis was a farmer at heart who enjoyed the slow pace of country life. He never passed up the opportunity to “haggle” (in his words) for the trade of equipment or favors. He loved to tinker in the barnyard with his farm equipment and take care of his farm animals. He spent many days baling hay or mending fences. He also loved to spend his time outside on the golf course, perfecting his self-proclaimed ugliest swing in the game. Dennis enjoyed his morning devotions sitting on the porch with his wife and spiritual partner. He also enjoyed a good book from bygone eras. He possessed an inquisitive mind and loved to pose and debate thoughtful, philosophical questions. He loved to go for drives with his wife but never found

the “long way” to be too long when the route took him past a donut shop or ice cream parlor. Dennis passed away on March 4, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Jay Ann, his son and daughter-in-law, Sean (Erin) MacDonald, as well as his two brothers, David (Jackie) and Bruce (Beverly) McDonald. The first visitation for Dennis will take place on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from Noon until 1:00 PM at the Evergreen Bible Baptist Church, Saunders Rd., in Kalkaska, Michigan. The funeral service will be at 1:00 PM. A second visitation gathering be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM at Sharp Funeral Home in Grand Blanc, Michigan. The family asks for donations to St. Jude or the Wounded Warrior Project in lieu of flowers. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 10. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Evergreen Bible Baptist Church  
1972 Saunders Rd SE  
Kalkaska, MI 49646-9367  
(231) 258-9101

## Funeral Service

MAR 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Evergreen Bible Baptist Church  
1972 Saunders Rd SE  
Kalkaska, MI 49646-9367  
(231) 258-9101

## Visitation

MAR 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Sharp Funeral Home  
6063 Fenton Road  
Grand Blanc Twp., MI 48507

## Interment

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Crestwood Memorial Cemetery  
2020 E. Hill Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439



# Tribute Wall

SH

“ Shirley Holmes lit a candle in memory of Dennis John McDonald



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Shirley Holmes - March 18 at 10:04 AM

MN

“ So many memories. It would take a book. 50 years of sharing life experiences. Many miles on the snowmobile trails. More off the trails and getting lost than actual trails. We enjoyed showing McDonald's and Tina around Portugal Our Tuesday nights were special to me. I hope these Tuesdays will continue JayAnne. Dennis you will be missed, we'll eat an extra cookie for you! We spent many hours discussing different passages in the Bible. Dennis had a unique way of helping people to see how to help themselves with Gods help. Shared by Marian

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marian navarro - March 09 at 08:39 AM

TA

“ I can't put into words how much I am going to miss Dennis! When I was just a beginning golfer, Dennis was the best golf partner! My ball would end up in the rough more often than not. Dennis would nonchalantly walk along the edge of the fairway, find it and give it the old foot wedge. He'd give me a nod and a little smile and (miraculously) my ball would be a foot or two in the fairway. Always positive, always encouraging. That was Dennis! He touched so many lives. He will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him.

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Tanja - March 08 at 10:37 PM