



Dr. Donald R. Benton

August 7, 1959 - May 5, 2023

Dr. Donald Robert Benton passed away at his home on Friday May 5th., 2023 at the age of 63. Don, to his family and friends, was born on August 7, 1959, in San Diego, California to Cobi and James Benton. He grew up in Escondido, California. In 1981, he obtained his Bachelor's Degree from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. In 1985, he obtained the Ph.D. in physics at the University of Maryland, where he met his wife, Mirjam Cvetic. Don completed his post-doctoral research in experimental nuclear physics at the Stanford Linear Accelerator and Princeton University, before settling in as a research scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, where Mirjam became a Professor of Physics. They bought a house in Yardley, Pennsylvania, where they raised their three children, Adrian, Peter, and Anna. In 2006, they moved to their current home in Lower Merion Township. Don would go on to accept a position at The Mitre Corporation as a research scientist, until his passing. In 2021 Don would celebrate the birth of his grandson, Alexander.

A quiet and gentle man, Don was unfailingly kind and polite to everyone he met. He was the strong center of his family and a true intellectual. Despite his reserved nature, Don was deceptively funny and quick-witted. Don was an avid reader and, along with his wife, a classical music and opera lover. They enjoyed visiting the great opera houses of the world on their many adventures. Don was a world traveler, and with his recent trip to Antarctica he

has completed his visit to every continent, just before his sudden devastating illness.

Above all else, Don was a devoted and consummate family man. He was the heart and soul of his wife and children and will be deeply missed. He is the beloved husband of Mirjam Cvetic and devoted father Adrian, Peter, and Anna; also survived by his grandson, Alexander; mother, Cobi; and brothers, Robert and David. Private Funeral services will be held at Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday May 10th., at 11 AM, with a private reception to follow at the family home. In lieu of gifts or flowers, the family would request a donation to the Red Cross, for which Donald frequently gave blood and cared for greatly.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I worked very closely with Don in the year of 2020. He was a very kind and knowledgeable also dedicated colleague for me to work with. I am deeply saddened of losing such a great friend and peer. Don, rest in peace! My thoughts and prayers for his surviving family members.



Ray Sheu

Ray Sheu - May 23, 2023 at 10:29 AM

RK

“ We were so saddened by Don's illness and passing. Our hearts go out to all of Don's family and friends.

Roger Kimmel - May 18, 2023 at 12:23 PM

IP

“ I met Don only a few times as a guest at the annual dinners Don and Mirjam were organizing for the physics department at UPenn. In these brief occasions Don made the strongest impression on me for his generous hospitality, the extent that he was catering for everyone present and the unwavering support for his family. Rest in peace Don. My thoughts are with Mirjam, Adrian, Peter and Anna.

Ioannis Papadimitriou

Ioannis Papadimitriou - May 10, 2023 at 10:50 AM

PM

“ Working with Don for several years at MITRE I grew to trust and respect his technical expertise, insight and ability to really decompose extremely complex challenges into discreet solvable problems. Thank you to the Benton family for sharing Don with us for a season, and for his contributions to Solving Problems for a Safer World. May God bless each one of you during this time of loss as well as sharing of memories.

Pat Miner

Pat Miner - May 09, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ Celestial Love was purchased for the family of Dr. Donald R. Benton.



May 09, 2023 at 09:39 AM

TD

“ The MITRE Corporation Army Division purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. Donald R. Benton.



The MITRE Corporation Army Division - May 09, 2023 at 08:54 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Donald R. Benton.*



May 09, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ *I have known Don for a very long time at MITRE. We worked together for several years. Don was very intelligent and always a hard worker. He was an introverted, quite engineer who let his work speak. The news of his sudden loss is a shock to me and to all of his work colleagues. We genuinely appreciate Don's contribution to the projects that are critical to our national security. Rest in peace Don.*

Naimish Thakkar

Naimish Thakkar - May 08, 2023 at 06:11 PM



I worked with Don as well at MITRE. He was one of the great ones. Always so technically savvy but humble and happy to help anyone in a way that enabled you to see his selfless spirit. I am so saddened to hear of his passing. He will be greatly missed by those in and around this community. My deepest condolences to his family.

Carol Pomaes

Carol Pomaes - May 10, 2023 at 10:28 AM

KF

“ I've only known Don for a couple of years working at MITRE but I was gravitated by his intelligence and ease to speak with. Don was a hard working and caring man, representing all the best qualities. His peers could only speak highly of Don and we are saddened by the sudden loss of such a great man. I wish the best to his family during this time of healing. Rest in peace Don.

Kevin Farr

Kevin Farr - May 08, 2023 at 05:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Donald R. Benton.



May 08, 2023 at 02:30 PM

MR

“ We met Don Benton through our mutual friendship with Sibylle and Bob Sampson. We joined Don and Mirjam at gatherings with the Sampsons at birthdays and on other occasions. We found Don to be a gentle, always thoughtful, kind, and intellectual person.

Don and his wife Mirjam met Sibylle at the Physics Department at the University of Maryland and they became lifelong friends. Don and Mirjam often visited the Sampsons at their home in Annapolis. When in retirement, if Sibylle would have a problem with her computer, Don came to the rescue. Don and Bob were also sympathetic friends.

At the time when Sibylle and Bob were ill, Don was a frequent visitor and helped to lift their spirits. Don oversaw necessary arrangements at their funerals. He was truly a FRIEND, in both happy, sad, and difficult times.

Our hearts are with Mirjam, Adrian, Peter, and Anna. Deepest sympathy also extended to his mother, and all the family.

May Don rest in peace. May he know eternal joy.

Bernard and Mary Ridgell

Mary Ridgell - May 06, 2023 at 06:12 PM

PK

“ Unfortunately I only met Don a few times and each time it was just a short meeting. Despite this, he always impressed me and I remember him as a warm-hearted and compassionate person who was always there for others, helping and supporting them. May he rest in peace and may his wife and family get through the pain, no matter how painful it is at the moment. Hopefully the pain and sadness will pass, but the memory will always remain.

Thank you Don for letting me meet you.

Heinrich Kern

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Kern - May 06, 2023 at 10:52 AM

CJ

Don's family and my family lived in the same neighborhood in the San Diego area in the 60s and 70s. Raised in a kind, loving, and supportive family, Don was an Eagle Scout and enjoyed astronomy as a hobby. He housesat for my parents a couple of times which he enjoyed because he would set up his telescope to view the stars. Our moms have remained lifelong friends. Sending condolences to Don's entire family.

Cynthia Johnson - May 07, 2023 at 05:35 PM

GC

I remember Don when he and Mirjam visited us in Chile, and when we all met at my mother's home in Slovenia. He was a very considerate and kind person. I am so sorry that he had to leave this life earlier than expected. My sincere condolences to my sister Mirjam and to her children Adrian, Peter and Anna.

Gorazd Cvetic - May 08, 2023 at 03:26 PM

AJ

I would like to echo my sister Cynthia's words above, as well as those in his Obituary about Don being a quiet and gentle man, and a devoted and consummate family man. He was a good man tragically taken too soon. Rest in peace, Don. Deepest condolences to Don's entire family.

Anne Johnson - May 08, 2023 at 06:23 PM