



Donald Henry Conner

May 7, 1944 - February 4, 2021

Donald Henry Conner, National Chess Master, dies at 76

Donald Henry Conner, age 76, died peacefully of natural causes on February 4, 2021 in Tallahassee, FL, where he resided for the past ten years. He had deep roots in Tallahassee, having graduated from FSU with a BA in Philosophy in 1967. He was born on May 7, 1944 in Wilmington, Delaware, and graduated from Boca Ciega High School, St. Petersburg, FL. In 1978 he received an MA in Philosophy from West Chester State College (PA) and then completed 2 years of a Ph.D. program in Philosophy at Temple University in Philadelphia.

He was married to Claire Martha Conner (formerly Mayerschoff) from 1994 to 2000 and had a stepdaughter, Marta. He was predeceased by his sister, Roberta Pyle of West Chester, PA, and is survived by his 2 nephews, Bruce Pyle of West Chester, PA and Eric Pyle of Newark, DE.

While Don had a career as an independent computer software engineer, working with many companies to solve major problems, his chief love and obsession was chess—both playing and teaching. In 1992 he achieved the status of “National Master” from the US Chess Federation! In 2014 he was certified as “Local Chess Coach” (Level 1) to enhance his chess teaching in Tallahassee. He was an artist who made beautiful and intricate abstract

drawings with a rapidograph while listening to Bach. Most recently his drawings were creative depictions of Celtic crosses.

Don had a delightful and unique sense of humor, a brilliant mind, and was a generous soul. He made a difference in many lives and maintained life-long friendships.

Young Fulford Funeral Home and Crematory provided services
850-610-4444 YoungFulford.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Henry Conner*

October 22, 2023 at 10:27 PM



“ *Donald Henry Conner*

October 09, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ *Donald Henry Conner*

September 22, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ *Don was my friend for 50 years. I remember one time he visited Richard and me at our place in the country south of Chapel Hill. While we were both at work, Don spent the day gathering large rocks from the hillside bordering the pond to make a path down the hill to our newly built house. Later, when he would visit Tallahassee during his high powered computer career, he'd generously take a group of us out to eat. Another way he gave of himself was to create drawings specifically for friends. He'd draw an intricate mantelpiece, for example, with the person's first name in big letters sitting on the mantle. And he drew many crosses for specific people, like "Ora's Cross." I must say he was a lonely soul, but aside from teaching chess, he kept himself busy reading voraciously, playing Sudoku and chess on line, keeping up with politics, reading biographies of chess champions, etc.. He made me feel like a special friend and he was a cherished friend of mine as well.*

Kathleen Woods Moore

Kathleen Woods Moore - March 30, 2021 at 05:04 PM

JF

“ I am sad for your loss. I got to know Don when he lived in Chapel Hill for a few years. He was a gentle-hearted man who enjoyed art and ballet. He was fond of puns and witty retorts, but was never unkind with his wit. He also enjoyed science fiction and seemed to have a rich inner life. I imagine Don was a good teacher because in conversation, he would share his wide range of knowledge and spark ideas in the listener. I will miss his sweet and generous spirit.

-- Jean McKinney

Jackie Fulford - March 29, 2021 at 11:53 AM

JT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I had several delightful interactions this past year with Don . He was a very interesting and intellectual man. He liked to discuss philosophy and the great philosophers. He loved classical music , and liked to share his knowledge about certain favorite musicians. We have lost a great man with a complex mind and a challenging chess player.

Janet Temkin

Janet A Temkin - March 25, 2021 at 10:29 PM