



STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON

May 14, 2023

Matthew (Matt), 36, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, May 14, 2023. He was known by close friends and co-workers as “Lefty”.

He was preceded in death by his father, Steven R. Donaldson and grandparents, Pete and Mary Evelyn (Memaw) Voytanovsky, William "Lefty" and Doris Donaldson.

Matt is survived by his son whom he loved very much, Daykota R. Donaldson (his son’s mother, Kayla); mother, Mary Ann Donaldson Essary (Edmond); sister, Stephanie Dustin; brother, Aaron Donaldson and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who showed their love and support especially since a near death car accident in June 2019.

Matt grew up in Hueytown and attended school at North Highland Elementary and Deeper Life Academy. For a time, he was a member of Deeper Life Church, where he was baptized in Jesus’ name. He played community sports and enjoyed skateboarding. Many people came to know him through his work at the local grocery stores, Highlander and Food Giant. Matt was an extremely hard worker and he began a career in cable communications with his uncle where he traveled to different areas of the country building communication systems. He also assisted in the rebuilding of the communication system in Puerto Rico after the devastating Hurricane. In 2019, Matt formed his own company, Donaldson Communications and Aerial Construction, until his accident prevented him from continuing that line of work.

Even though Matt was born without his right hand (given his nickname

“Lefty”), he never let that hinder him from accomplishing what he set out to do. Matt enjoyed hobbies such as motorcycle riding, music and playing pool. He was a self-taught guitarist and could play the drums. He also competed in local pool tournaments. Matt was also developing his artistic skills in designing artwork and created a logo to be used for his aunt’s fishing clothing line. During this past year, Matt resided at the Warrior River where he enjoyed fishing, boating, and riding the Sea-Doo with his cousins. Matt never met a stranger. His courage, wit, determination and smile captured many hearts. He will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends. We love you Matt and may you rest in peace in Jesus’ name Amen. The visitation will be Friday May 19, 2023 from 12:30 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. at Peoples Chapel with the funeral to follow at 2:00 P.M.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Brenda lit a candle in memory of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON*



Brenda - May 19, 2023 at 11:45 AM

AR

“ *I'm grateful for the time we had together in Florida. I don't think you understood the void you would leave behind. You touched my heart like no one ever had and I feel privileged you let me in yours. You always made sure to be present when we had our time on the phone and you were on the road with the crew. I will always remember you playing your guitar and cuddling with 'Finjamin'. I would always wait to see your face in the yard before heading home, somehow that made me feel like all was right with the world. And I will never forget the very first time we met after working 12 hours days of storm recovery you waited for me to get back just to walk me to my car to say goodnight. I can fill a book with the late night conversations laughter and plans we just couldn't get to happen. I thought we'd have a chance to meet again to make it right. I pray that Daykota is surrounded by good people who will help him grow up to be a good man like you. You will be missed. Until we meet again Sugar*



Ailsa Rodriguez - May 18, 2023 at 08:04 PM

DC

“ *Mary Ann,
I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Matthew as a little boy (I say that but I was a kid myself) and being amazed at all the things he could do that others would think he couldn't do. He was definitely a strong willed, determined guy that wouldn't let anything keep him down. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers in the days and weeks to come as you try to understand what God's plan is and learn how to live a life with out him, but I hope you find peace in knowing his is with Memaw and has both hands now, imagine the music he is making now.*

Darenda Carter - May 18, 2023 at 05:57 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of
STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.*



May 18, 2023 at 05:18 PM

FD

“ *MaryAnn, I know we weren't that close especially after Steve passed, but I do know your pain and just know the memories will help ease that pain. I did not know Matthew went by Lefty. That is so great as his grandfather, my dad, William Donaldson, also was called Lefty. I never knew why he was called it, but it is great that they had the same nickname without ever knowing it. I hope you know if Joy or I can do anything for you all you have to do is reach out. You have our most sincere condolences and know God will get you thru all things.*

Frank, and Joy Donaldson

Frank Donaldson - May 18, 2023 at 05:07 PM

AR

“ Aunt Susie, Eric Hansen, Alison Ruh purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.



Aunt Susie, Eric Hansen, Alison Ruh - May 18, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.



May 18, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.



May 18, 2023 at 12:05 PM

ME

“ My dear son Matthew, God gave you to me to love and protect but I never dreamed you would leave me so soon. I can not understand His reason for taking you right now but I know there is a plan , I just pray that one day I will. I love you so very much and my life without you will never be the same. The only thing that I have of you now is your precious baby boy , Daykota. I promise as long as I live , I will make sure that he is taken care of and that he will know what a great person you were and how much you loved him. You will always be in my heart and the memories I have will never die. I can not ever truly say goodbye, but only that I will see you again in another place and time. Love you so very very much , Mom.

Mary Ann Donaldson Essary - May 18, 2023 at 12:04 PM

AB

“ My condolences to the family. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Angelique Brown - May 18, 2023 at 11:47 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.



May 18, 2023 at 10:21 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.*



May 18, 2023 at 04:21 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jessica Ozbolt - May 17, 2023 at 11:17 PM



“ *It was never a dull moment hanging out with Lefty. Even if it was just sitting around with a guitar and making your own songs up as you go. Always a cheerful spirit and carefree no matter what circumstances he went through. He was a Ruff Neck. An inspiration to all that knew him that it didn't matter what hand you might have been dealt in life-you play it with all you've got. He is and will be missed tremendously by so many people whose lives he's touched on this Earth. He was considered family to so many, even if not by blood. We extend our love and prayers to all of his family-blood and beyond.*

With our deepest sympathy--The Ozbolts (Phill, Jess, Blaz and Boyd)

Jessica Ozbolt - May 17, 2023 at 11:12 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album *Homies*



Jessica Ozbolt - May 17, 2023 at 10:53 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album *Homies*



Jessica Ozbolt - May 17, 2023 at 10:53 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album *Homies*



Jessica Ozbolt - May 17, 2023 at 10:52 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album *Homies*



Jessica Ozbolt - May 17, 2023 at 10:38 PM

SC

“ *Sherry Cooke lit a candle in memory of
STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON*



Sherry Cooke - May 17, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the
family of STEPHEN MATTHEW DONALDSON.*



May 17, 2023 at 07:21 PM

KB

“ Our kids love Uncle Lefty so much it hurts! Our youngest is 4 and they were bickering and giving each other a hard time. I'll never forget Lefty saying something to him and our youngest turning to him and saying 'Well at least I have two hands!' He laughed so hard and said he had never been burned by a toddler before until now and that was the best thing he had ever heard. Any time our middle asked about his hand he always changed the story. One time it was an alligator the next a shark. He always kept things entertaining and always got me with 'the made you look' sign he did. We love you so much Lefty and are so thankful you were a part of our lives.

Kaitlin B. - May 17, 2023 at 06:55 PM