



Don Leroy Ghimenti

December 11, 1945 - February 21, 2016

Don Ghimenti was born on December 11, 1945 and passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on February 21, 2016 at the age of 70. Don was the second son of Gena and Almando Ghimenti. He's a graduate of Central High School and a Vietnam Veteran where he served from 1965 to 1967 for the U.S.

Don had three children, Donald, Nicole and Vincent. Don met his soul mate of 40 years Richard Ramirez in 1976, they later married in September 2015.

Don was 13 when he and his older brother Armando went into businesses. They opened two successful businesses; a Shell Gas station in Highway City off of Shaw and Hwy 99, then a second business; A & D Parts. During their years of operation they became well known and very respected, especially for his annual open house which he held every Christmas Eve where he cooked (along side his son Vince) and fed all who came through the door. In May of 2008 he and his life partner opened up the Flamenco Art Academy dance studio.

Don was a hard worker and his passions were cooking and traveling, and wasn't afraid to try something new and take on new challenges. Don was so charismatic and always captured you just by his smile and personality, and will be greatly missed.

He is preceded in death by his father Almando, mother Gena and eldest son Donald.

Don is survived by his life-partner and husband of 40 years, Richard Ramirez-Ghimenti; Two children Nicole and Vincent, daughter-in-law Mica; five grandchildren Nickolas, Taylor, Giordano, Elijah and Donovan; brother Armando and sister-in-law Grace, one niece Jeana and three nephews Ralph, Anthony and Joseph, mother in law Josephine Ramirez family.

Visitation will be held at Chapel of the Light Funeral Home on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Recitation of the Holy Rosary will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at The Shrine of St. Therese Catholic Church on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. with a reception to follow at the church hall.

Memorial donations may be made in Don's name to The Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society 1918 N. Echo Ave., Fresno, Ca 93704

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Vigil Service

FEB **26**. 7:00 PM (PT)

Chapel of the Light
1620 W. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728
michael@chapelofthelight.com
<http://www.chapelofthelight.com>

Funeral Mass

FEB **27**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Shrine of St. Therese Catholic Church
855 E. Floradora
Fresno, CA 93728

Tribute Wall



“ *Chapel Of The Light created a Tribute Video in memory of Don Leroy Ghimenti*



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - February 26, 2016 at 04:55 PM

FG

This is beautiful watching these memories. So many tears. As we say in Greek, May his memory be eternal. Sending love to your all.

Francesa Grousis - February 27, 2016 at 10:32 AM



“ *Don Leroy Ghimenti*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *My name is Catalino Chaparro . Everyone called me Cat.
I knew Don back in 1982 when I worked for him at A&D auto parts. I
just today thought about contacting him. Unfortunately came across
his obituary.*

*We weren't close like good friends but what I knew about Don,
made me feel like I knew a great person ! What I saw in Don was a
giving friendly man that always treated everyone well , like family.
What I remember was his great sense of humor, always joking and
making everyone feel at ease at work. He was a very hard worker
and expected no more than that from his employees.*

I will miss Don! He left a big impression on me !

*Because of Don, his employees learned to be productive and very
easy to get along with. I remember some of their names : Steve
(manager), Brian, Nacho , Jeff and Tony (I think nephew).*

*I also remember his brother Armando ! Great guy ! You could tell
that both of them were from the same family !*

Don created great memories !!!

*In case any of the employees that I worked with or Armando want to
get ahold of me , I can be reached at - catsfish59@gmail.com.*

*Would like to know what's happened through all these years with
everyone !*

Catalino

Catalino Chaparro - November 27, 2016 at 04:37 PM

MC

“ Don lived a very full and wonderful life.He had two relationships one with his partner (soulmate Richie) the other with his children and grandchildren. He gave of himself equally to both and was able to keep them involved in each others lives. he treated Richie's family as he did his own such a gift. Don and Richie had such a way of bringing people together and good times were always had. Myself Don and Richie go way way back we had so much fun going to dance clubs, bars, shared vacations and also shared our homes. I always say never take pictures or put it in writing, think I will stick to that one. I believe when you leave this life the only thing you take with you is the love in your heart. Don is caring a very heavy load. He is taking with him all the love he gave to others and all the love we all gave to him in return. We will miss his smile and his pouty little lips.He will be forever in our hearts. Won't post my name Don and Richie know who this is. I will just have to go with knowing Don is at peace and rest now.Love you Don.

Manuel Cuevas - February 27, 2016 at 12:08 AM

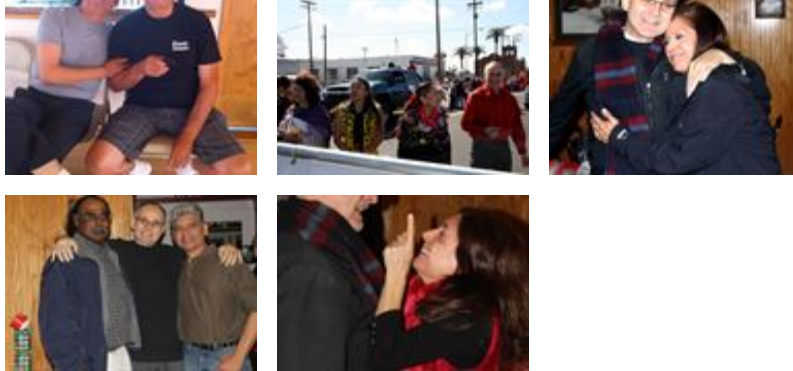
LS

“ I never laughed so hard as when in the presence of Don and Richie. I have all happy memories of the time we shared. Dearest Richie, my prayers are with you, especially at this time and to all of Don's family and friends as well. Love you and feel honored to have known him. He added richness to everyone's life. Comfort and peace, Don.
Linda Smith - Pac Bell, SBC, At&t

Linda Smith - February 26, 2016 at 04:19 PM



“ 61 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - February 26, 2016 at 04:18 PM



“ *Don was one of the kindest person I have ever met. His joyful smile made you feel so special whenever you would see him. He made others feel so good. His bright light in this world will be greatly missed. Deepest sympathy to the family.* Mitzi Lowe



Mitzi Lowe - February 26, 2016 at 03:31 PM

ME

Agreed. I loved him dearly

Maureen Elena - February 27, 2016 at 06:16 PM

CY

“ His contagious smile and laughter...and just like an older brother, the constant " fun ribbing". The past 39 years I've known Don, Rich and their family, we're always joyful, memorable and loving. His generous heart and spirit were a small portion of the qualities that made our Donato, such a great person, friend. Even waiting to share his condition as it presented itself during the loss of our Mommas. He cared deeply and was a truly loyal friend, a rare, selfless humans...both Rich and Don. The times in their company was always a roaring, hilarious, raucous joy. Our jaws sore from all the laughter...Fabulous times...Fabulous company...Fabulous Friends, that I will cherish. Donato you were admired, respected and loved! I hope you knew the degrees and depth of such... RICH, you are a brave, Charismatic, talented, love...and please know, YOU WILL NEVER BE ALONE. We are here for you and pray that you and the Beautiful Ghimenti Family receive our heartfelt condolences, our love, care and sorrow for this loss. Big HUGS DONATO, sleep with the Angels...



Cynthia - February 26, 2016 at 02:38 PM

JP

“ I'm sorry for your lose. My god hold you up during this time.

Jon Pace - February 25, 2016 at 10:00 PM



“ Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.



February 25, 2016 at 09:46 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.*



February 25, 2016 at 08:48 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.*



February 25, 2016 at 06:11 PM



“ *Rosemary & Mike Carroll lit a candle in memory of Don Leroy Ghimenti*



Rosemary & Mike Carroll - February 25, 2016 at 04:47 PM



“ *Katherine Harper and Family purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.*




Katherine Harper and Family - February 25, 2016 at 02:27 PM

MY

“ *MICHAEL & TIFFANY YLARREGUI purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – Purple for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.*




MICHAEL & TIFFANY YLARREGUI - February 25, 2016 at 11:29 AM

 Lucy Jess Rodriguez

“ *Lucy Jess Rodriguez lit a candle in memory of Don Leroy Ghimenti*



Lucy Jess Rodriguez - February 25, 2016 at 12:29 AM

 Lucy Jess Rodriguez

“ *I have good memories of hanging out with Don and Ricardo before dance classes. Don would bring Ricardo dinner and we would sit there and talk and laugh. I'm glad I had the pleasure of meeting him.*

Lucy Jess Rodriguez - February 25, 2016 at 12:28 AM

AG

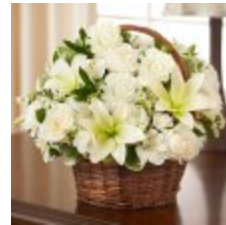
“ *Arnold Irene Gomez lit a candle in memory of Don Leroy Ghimenti*



Arnold Irene Gomez - February 24, 2016 at 07:53 PM

LD

“ Lucille Donati purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.



Lucille Donati - February 24, 2016 at 05:57 PM

LR

“ We had some very interesting discussions at our cousins dinners and will miss Don very much, especially when he and Sharon talked politics... Lucille and Richard

Lucille and Richard - February 24, 2016 at 05:09 PM

BB

“ blll & Margie bitler purchased the Love's Embrace Roses – White for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.



blll & Margie bitler - February 24, 2016 at 12:34 PM

TH

“ Tom and Lily Huber purchased the Always With Us Lid Decoration for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.



Tom and Lily Huber - February 24, 2016 at 12:14 PM

DS

“ Always a nice smile & a hello, very sorry for the loss of a nice man.

David stone - February 24, 2016 at 10:34 AM

MM

“ *Mike and Monica purchased the White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Don Leroy Ghimenti.*



Mike and Monica - February 24, 2016 at 08:59 AM