



Donald Ray Ediger

October 28, 1937 - May 23, 2020

EDIGER, DONALD RAY, 82, born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away on May 23, 2020. Private Cremation Services.

Donald Ray Ediger, author, journalist and publisher, died May 23, 2020, at Mercy Hospital in Miami, Florida. He was a resident of Coconut Grove where he chose to spend his retirement. Don was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 28, 1937, to Charlotte Rae (Winder) and Theodore A. Ediger.

Don spent his childhood in Oklahoma, Mexico, Long Island and New York City. During this time, his parents took him to see his Grandmother, Mrs. J.B. Ediger (now deceased), in Buhler, KS. There his life was enriched by meeting some of the 14 Ediger cousins. Don held the distinction of being the oldest cousin. During high school Don and his cousin, Beth Baehr Bullard, enjoyed impressing their friends dancing the jitterbug. Don and Cousin Beth were very close and excelled at dancing! Also during high school, Don and his best friend, Boyd Scheff, traveled frequently to Venezuela on an oil tanker named the African Queen where they were "mess boys." Don and Boyd were friends until Don's death. Donald graduated from Mineola High School in 1956, already a well-traveled young man. He continued his education at the University of Virginia graduating from the University of Hawaii in Manoa in 1962. He completed his Master's degree at the London School of Economics in 1965. According to Boyd, Don was the smartest man he ever knew.

Don's professional life led him to reside in several world capitals, including London, Paris, and Washington D.C. During his career he worked as an Intern for the New York Times, a reporter for the Miami Herald, a reporter for the International Herald Tribune and as a writer for Business week and the Democratic National Committee. Don was a true entrepreneur and a brilliant writer. He was most content when he was self-employed, writing articles about archaeology, history, politics, and even vampires. His book, *The Well of Sacrifice* (Holt), was published in 1971. It is an account of an archaeological expedition to Chichen Itza in the heart of Yucatan. While living in Europe for many years, he wrote for

well-known publications as well as independently.

Don moved back to the Miami area more than ten years ago where he continued his freelance writing, including editing a movie script. He had a wide circle of friends, many of whom were his daily breakfast companions. He would hold forth while sipping his ever-present espresso and glancing at his New York Times. He was witty, erudite, and entertaining, all while asking great questions and encouraging others.

Don was an extremely private person. Those who knew him for many years could not say ten words about his private life because that was a part of him he did not share. Several of his friends and acquaintances suspected that he was somehow a member of or connected to one of the government intelligence agencies. Don never said anything that would encourage or dispel those suspicions. Don loved the Miami area, especially Coconut Grove. Although he was not a sailor, Don belonged to the Coconut Grove Sailing Club where he could be found almost every evening having his cocktail and entertaining his friends. Never one to believe weather reports, Don would always be seen with his ever-present umbrella. Don will be missed by all who knew and loved him. May his memory be a blessing.

Cemetery Details

Ferdinand Crematory

2546 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33135

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ *My wife and I had the great fortune to encounter Don in Coconut Grove during the early 2000's. We did not get to spend as much time as we'd like, but every moment was a treasure. Don's political insights were impressive and thoughtful. He saw the big picture and assured us that goodness prevails in the end. We moved from the area a few years ago and just recently found out of his passing. A marvellous person who made the world a better place.*

Kurt and Avn Sturm



kjsturm - December 16, 2021 at 12:57 AM

TW

“ *Don was my mentor and very dear friend since 1973. I feared something had happened when I didn't hear from him on my birthday last June - a first in nearly 50 years. He opened my eyes to the world of New York, London and Paris, tutored me in English, Spanish and Algebra, and helped to develop and shape my writing. Truly, Don was the most intelligent man I have ever known. Above all, he was very kind to me. Requiescat In Pace, dear Don.*

The Rev. John Warfel
Venice, Florida

The Rev. John Warfel - August 03, 2020 at 11:08 AM

CB

“ *Cynthia Brown lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Ediger*



Cynthia Brown - July 23, 2020 at 11:33 AM

CB

“ My name is Cynthia Brown and I met Mr Ediger and his mother, Charlotte, in the late 1990's. I was his mother's caregiver prior to her passing in April 2000. I valued my friendship with the Edigers. I remember the time when I met his cousin Barbara and her dog "Flash". I have not spoken with her in years and I hope she is well. I last spoke with Mr. Ediger around November 2019 and I had been concerned about him because we did not speak in December like we usually do. We usually spoke off and on during the year also - always keeping in touch. I tried to get in touch with him and wondered about how he was doing and I was saddened to find out from the internet that he had passed away on May 23, 2020. I always referred to him as "Mr. Ediger" even though he told me numerous times "just call me Don!" - it just seemed more correct to me that he should be called "Mr. Ediger" rather than "Don". I will always remember that he was an optimist. I loved his laughter! He was inspiring and encouraging to me! Mr. Ediger was very kind to me while I finished college in my later years. I also enjoyed hearing about his travels. He was so kind with excellent manners and polite always! He was a true gentleman!! My thoughts and prayers to the family. Blessings, Cynthia Brown.

Cynthia Brown - July 23, 2020 at 11:32 AM

BF

“ Belinda H Fricker lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Ediger



Belinda H Fricker - June 18, 2020 at 12:20 PM

BC

My name is Barbara Ray and I'm Dons cousin on his mothers side. When after many attempts to reach him I asked the police to do a WellCare check only to hear of his death. I was stunned by the news as he had called me a couple of days before his passing. I traveled with him to Paris late 90s and we visited each other. He called me when he had his stroke. I'm left perplexed by it all and would love to talk with whoever wrote the obituary. My phone is 832-527-8447 and would very much appreciate a call

barbara ray- dons cousin - August 04, 2020 at 12:58 PM

KC

Another cousin (Paul Ediger) has tried to call you. I will also try.

Kathy Cullen - December 09, 2020 at 04:58 PM