



Donald Birnbaum

June 18, 1960 - December 28, 2025

Don Birnbaum, beloved father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully on December 28, 2025 surrounded by love and family in his final moments.

Born on June 18, 1960 in Kansas City, Missouri, Don was the only child of Marvin and Linda (Greene) Birnbaum. In his youth, Don developed a lifelong passion for music, classic cars, and sports statistics. He worked as a summer camp counselor in his early teens, and later at his parents' flower shop. An avid reader with a deep love for learning, he amassed a wealth of knowledge about many subjects over his 65 years.

Don had a distinctly deep and articulate voice, and he excelled at reading bedtime stories to his children and grandchildren. He always brought a story's characters to life with unique, comical personalities. Professionally, Don applied his vocal talents to a career in radio. After earning his broadcasting certificate in 1987, Don became a late-night weekend DJ for KBCO radio in Kansas City, and a weekday air traffic reporter for several local radio stations. Longtime Kansas City residents may remember Don's daily rush hour traffic reports, broadcast from a helicopter and aired on major AM and FM stations under the radio personality name he coined as "Sargent Jay Riley." He later became the program manager at KOFO Radio in Ottawa, KS.

In 1991, he transitioned to a career in telecommunications, eventually advancing to the role of technical support manager. Working for AT&T, Lucent Technologies, and Avaya, Don would remain in the telecommunications

industry for over 20 years.

Don is survived by his three children, Kara, Sidelle, and Michael; two grandchildren, Michael and Zander Birnbaum; his father, Marvin; and two sisters, Sherri and Lisa. We will remember him fondly as we honor his legacy.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
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Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Birnbaum*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 27 at 12:21 PM



“ *So very sorry to hear of the passing of Don. He was a very fun and funny guy! I remember many times when his dry humor kept us all in laughter. May you find solace in knowing he was a loved person who was kind and sincere. Much love to his family Teri Mills*

teri mills - January 31 at 09:53 AM