



## Dong Bui

August 3, 2019

Dong, age 51, was born in a small fishing village in Vietnam. He yearned for education, opportunities, and success, so he fled his home country at the age of 13, leaving behind his parents and 9 siblings. He arrived in Malaysia as a refugee after escaping on a small boat. He would be taken into the care of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gabrielson. They welcomed him into their family and cared for him as one of their own. He was a star athlete, playing both soccer and lacrosse. He was embodying what it meant to be an American. It was through sports that he made some of his lasting friends, developed his identity, and eased the transition into his new life in America. However, he never forgot his roots and did whatever he could, even in high school, to support his mother and family in Vietnam. He would go on to play lacrosse in college. After many changes in his studies, he discovered his love for business, got a degree in finance, and became a successful financial advisor. At a wedding in Philadelphia, he would meet a woman named Michelle. He knew immediately that he was going to marry her. They wed shortly after, starting their life and creating their family together.

Dong was a man that was loved by many. Even if you only met him once, he would not hesitate to help you if called upon. He was selfless and kind, and always put the needs of others before his own. He would give you the shirt off of his back so that you would not be cold. He enjoyed the simple things in life. He loved the company of his family and friends. He enjoyed cold beers and

good conversation. He loved to talk and exchange stories and jokes. When he laughed, he laughed with his whole body. His eyes would squint, a large smile would spread across his face, and his shoulders would move up and down. He was genuine, honest and thoughtful. His hard work and dedication towards his family never went unnoticed. He was someone you could always count on when you were sad, lonely, or in a crisis. He did whatever he could to provide for his wife and his family, taking them on trips around the world and immersing them in culture. He did not worry if his children would excel at sports or in their academics. Rather he cared about developing good character, that they would grow into respectable, caring, and thoughtful individuals.

At the age of 50, he was diagnosed with liver and bile duct cancer. He fought bravely for over a year, but unfortunately succumbed to his illness on August 3, 2019. He was surrounded by his entire family and his close friends. He will be forever missed and always in our hearts.

Dong is survived by his loving wife Michelle (Thanh Tung Luu), and two adoring children David (16) and Linda(23).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

AUG 9. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Foley Funeral Home  
1132 Cottman Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
(215) 342-7380

## Viewing

AUG 9. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Foley Funeral Home  
1132 Cottman Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
(215) 342-7380

## Viewing

AUG 10. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

St. Helena's Catholic Church  
5th & Godfrey Sts.  
Philadelphia, PA

## Funeral Mass

AUG 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

St. Helena's Catholic Church  
5th & Godfrey Sts.  
Philadelphia, PA

## Interment

AUG **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Oakland Cemetery  
Adams & Romona Aves.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

# Tribute Wall

GG

“ *Your were my nephew and even though we didn't get to see much of you I will remember that young boy who entered the Gabrielson's family.* ”

gail gabrielson - August 12, 2019 at 11:34 AM

HA

“ *Harbulak purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dong Bui.* ”



Harbulak - August 10, 2019 at 01:34 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dong Bui.* ”



August 09, 2019 at 07:51 AM

MH

“ *Michael, Michelle, Caroline, Nicole, Jen & Helga purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Dong Bui.* ”



Michael, Michelle, Caroline, Nicole, Jen & Helga - August 08, 2019 at 05:02 PM

HP

“ *Don was one-in-a-million. He was a great human being: compassionate, had perspective and full of integrity. He also was helpful and easy to work with - he cared about doing the right thing, ensuring that everyone was heard and all points considered. He had such a nice, cheerful disposition and positive outlook. Rather than being annoyed at a problem or person, he always said, "what's the problem, let's fix it". His story of coming over to America and then creating the life that he did here is just amazing.*

*My deepest condolences to his family. He was a fantastic man.*

*He will be deeply missed. I greatly enjoyed working with him and am very saddened by his loss.*

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**Heather Paoli** - August 08, 2019 at 11:46 AM

MR

*Don was such an incredible family man, he was so proud of his family.*

*He was always welcoming to anyone he encountered and always took the time to listen and talk about things that were important to the person he was talking to.*

*Don has always been a great friend and loving father and husband*

*We will all miss him very much. I'm sure he will be doing a great job up in heaven as he has done here on earth*

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**Michael Roshko** - August 09, 2019 at 07:59 AM

PG

“ *Pat, Mike, Chris and Ruby Gannon purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dong Bui.*



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**Pat, Mike, Chris and Ruby Gannon** - August 07, 2019 at 01:38 PM

FT

“ From TD Bank TeamDon purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dong Bui.



From TD Bank TeamDon - August 07, 2019 at 11:39 AM

TC

“ The Luu Uncles and Aunts from California purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dong Bui.



The Luu Uncles and Aunts from California - August 07, 2019 at 09:25 AM

DP

“ My deepest sympathy to Don's family. He was one of the nicest people I ever met and will be missed. Dominick Pisapia



Dominick Pisapia - August 06, 2019 at 04:27 PM

LH

“ Love your Niece Dung Hoang purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dong Bui.



Love your Niece Dung Hoang - August 06, 2019 at 04:21 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dong Bui.*



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August 06, 2019 at 01:36 PM



“ *Don was a man of character. When hiring, his primary concern was whether you were a good person who could and would make tough but moral decisions. He was never afraid of spending the time to teach you the rest. I'll always appreciate that he would see the best in people, which was often before they could recognize it in themselves.*

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**Saun Conlin** - August 06, 2019 at 11:12 AM



“ *I worked with Dong at TD Bank. He was enthusiastic, dedicated, passionate, and loyal. He enjoyed achieving his and his team's goals but also was encouraging and excited for other people's goals and successes. He was selfless and sharing. We shared stories of families and taking care of our parents and he was very supportive and encouraging. I enjoyed and respected Dong and he will be missed greatly. My deepest sympathies for his family and close friends. He was a great guy and it was an honor to work with him!*

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**Susan Beaman** - August 06, 2019 at 11:03 AM