



Donald Theodore Ryce Jr.

December 15, 1943 - October 3, 2020

Don Ryce was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on December 15, 1943. His mother, Martha Ryce was a fashion model, and his father Donald Theodore, Sr. was a businessman.

Don always wanted to be a lawyer and received his law degree from the University of Florida.

He married Reba Mae Morgan (from Lexington, Kentucky) and they had two children, Ted and Martha. They later divorced in 1981. Sadly, Reba died in a car accident in 1991.

In 1983, Don married Claudine Walker and together with Don raised his two children in Miami.

Don worked as a labor relations attorney and had a successful law practice with many Fortune 500 clients. Life was good. The family thrived and they traveled the world together.

Tragedy struck the family on September 11, 1995 when Don's youngest son, Jimmy, was abducted and murdered. This captured the attention of people around the world.

From that moment on, the family devoted their efforts to helping other families of missing children and founded the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction. One of the main goals of the center was to provide bloodhounds, free of charge, to law enforcement agencies. To date, the Jimmy Ryce Center has donated over 600 bloodhounds.

Don fought tirelessly to change legislation to protect children from predators and attended two bill-signing ceremonies at the White House. One was with President George W. Bush and the other with President Bill Clinton.

Don's wife, Claudine, died of a heart attack in 2009.

Sadly, in 2013, Martha took her life, due in part to the murder of her younger brother.

Despite all of the pain he endured in his life, Don Ryce never lost his sense of humor, never stopped caring for his family and always had a smile on his face.

Don loved his children, loved to travel, loved history(particularly World War II) wine and fine dining.

To keep his legacy going please consider donating to:

JimmyRyce.org/donate

Cemetery

Events

Woodlawn Park South Cemetery

11655 SW 117th Avenue

Miami, FL, 33186

7

Visitation & Webcasting 10:30AM - 12:30PM

Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel

11220 N. Kendall Drive, Miami, FL, US, 33176

OCT

Graveside Service

01:00PM

7

Woodlawn Park South Cemetery

11655 SW 117th Avenue, Miami, FL, US, 33186

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Van Orsdel Family Funeral Chapels - October 06 at 05:57 PM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Van Orsdel Family Funeral Chapels - October 04 at 05:22 PM



“ What a tremendous loss! I first met Don in 1988 as a brand new lawyer. Don was on the Executive Council, and was a kind and welcoming presence. Over the years, I came to know him well. He was an amazing labor lawyer and friend! I spoke to him most recently this past Fall, and he shared with me how much enjoyment he was having with his labor arbitration practice. It is my honor, along with the support of my colleagues, to nominate Don to be included in the Labor and Employment Law Section's Hall of Fame, an honor reserved for the top attorneys in our field. <https://www.laboremploymentlaw.org/hall-of-fame/> When the time feels right, I hope the family will choose to reach out to our Section so we can share the details of our effort to recognize Don's contributions to the law.

Debbie Brown

Debbie Brown - October 17 at 11:11 AM



“ Beautiful service

Karen - October 07 at 02:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Terri Lynn - October 07 at 08:57 AM



“ 19 files added to the album LifeTributes



Van Orsdel Family Funeral Chapels - October 06 at 04:43 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Terri Lynn - October 06 at 08:49 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Terri Lynn - October 06 at 08:47 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Terri Lynn - October 06 at 08:46 AM