



Donald "Donnie" Mello

July 3, 1973 - May 15, 2025

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Donald "Donnie" Mello—beloved husband, dad, artist, amateur lumberjack, and professional tool hoarder—has officially traded in his hand planes for angel wings. He passed peacefully on May 15, 2025, probably still thinking about the best way to sharpen a handsaw.

Born with sawdust in his veins, Donnie could turn a chunk of wood into a masterpiece and somehow make it funny while doing it. He surfed in his youth (mostly upright), sketched like a Renaissance master, and loved nature like it owed him money.

He met the love of his life, Leslie, at a skate park in 2005—because obviously the best relationships start with scraped knees and bad decisions. They went on to raise four incredible children: Jacklyn, Mya, Noah, and Jacob, who inherited his sharp wit, creative spark, and likely a lifetime supply of sandpaper.

Donnie was the kind of dad who showed up to every game, every recital, and every emergency science project with a glue gun in one hand and encouragement in the other. He was a godly man with a joyful heart, and a

sense of humor that occasionally bordered on “Are we allowed to laugh at that?”

He is preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Joanne Mello, grandparents, an aunt, uncles, and one cousin—no doubt welcoming him into Heaven with open arms and asking if he brought his toolbox.

Donnie's legacy is carved (and sanded) into every life he touched. He will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and never, ever replaced—unless you count that weird amount of backup chisels he insisted on keeping “just in case.”

Rest easy, Donnie. You nailed it.

A recitation of the rosary and funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025 at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Turlock, CA. Following the services, Donnie will be laid to rest at Turlock Memorial Park.

Please join the family for a reception following the services at the Mello Residence.

Cemetery Details

Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.
Turlock, CA 95380
(209) 632-9111
<http://turlockmemorialpark.com>

Previous Events

Recitation of the Rosary & Funeral Mass

JUN 2. 10:00 AM (PT)

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church
2602 South Walnut Road
Turlock, CA 95380

Interment Following Funeral Mass

JUN 2. 11:30 AM (PT)

Turlock Memorial Park
575 N Soderquist Rd
Turlock, CA 95380-3749
(209) 632-9111

Tribute Wall

LM

“ 7 files added to the album Donnie <3



Leslie Mello - June 06, 2025 at 05:25 PM

M&

“ *Maria &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald "Donnie" Mello.*

Maria &. - June 02, 2025 at 02:44 PM

TC

“ *The Asturi Clan purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Donald "Donnie" Mello.*



The Asturi Clan - May 31, 2025 at 06:30 PM

KK

“ Kathy K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald "Donnie" Mello.

Kathy K. - May 30, 2025 at 11:41 AM

PR

“ I liked this wonderful man the first time I met him at a Rotary fundraiser. He was so easy to talk to with his gentle voice and sweet smile. He will be missed.

Pat Rocha - May 22, 2025 at 11:41 PM

TP

“ The Infusion Room Peeps purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald "Donnie" Mello.



The Infusion Room Peeps - May 21, 2025 at 02:19 PM

CP

“ Christa P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald "Donnie" Mello.

Christa P. - May 21, 2025 at 02:14 PM