



## Gerald Donovan Bigelow III

August 1, 1984 - February 15, 2019

Gerald Donovan Bigelow III, 34, of Frederick, MD, unexpectedly passed away of natural causes on February 15, 2019, at his home. Born on August 1, 1984, in Chestertown, MD, he was the son of Gerald Donovan Bigelow Jr. and Christina Bigelow.

Gerald is survived by the loves of his life, his wife Jessica Fitzwater, whom he married on September 2, 2012, and his son, Jonah. He is also survived by his mother and father, Donnie and Chris, his sister, Sarah Bigelow and fiancé Joel Silverstein, his sister, Emma Graef and her husband Dan, and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins; his mother-in-law Carole Lafferman, father-in-law David Fitzwater, sister-in-law Caitlin Fitzwater, brother-in-law Nils Reid, and nephew Finn Reid; his dancing dog, Georgie, and cats, Oscar and Millie.

Known as “G” to all who loved him, he is also survived by many, many close friends who were like family.

Gerald graduated from Kent County High School in 2002 and St. Mary’s College of Maryland in 2006. He worked as a Sales Fulfillment Specialist at Flying Dog Brewery and previously worked for 10 years at American Public University System.

Gerald loved life. He was cherished by all who knew him for his kind and caring heart, his warm presence, his great sense of humor, and his loyal

friendship. Gerald had many passions in life that he shared with those around him. He loved to write and to use his beautiful imagination through storytelling and games. He enjoyed music, history, cooking, and learning new things like brewing beer and being everyone's favorite D&D Dungeon Master. He enjoyed hunting in Kent County, a tradition he shared with his father. Gerald loved his home State of Maryland and spending time in its beautiful natural and historic places with his family and friends. And he loved sharing each day with his wife and son.

Gerald always brought people together and made them feel welcome and loved. He was a wonderful husband and father, son and brother, nephew and uncle, and treasured friend. He will be missed and remembered by so many.

A private service will be held for family and friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Jonah Kent Bigelow, at BB&T Bank, 22940 Jefferson Blvd, Smithsburg, MD 21783.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Tribute Wall



“ *We used to jump waves together when we went on vacation.*

Sadie Conlon - March 13, 2024 at 10:11 AM



“ *Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



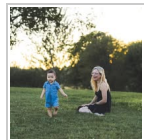
“ *Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *It was such a pleasure to know you while at St. Mary's. You were a consummate gentleman, authentic, caring, funny, kind, and bright. My deepest condolences to Jessica and all those who loved you so deeply.*

Abigail Rotholz - April 10, 2019 at 03:48 PM



“ *Chris and Donnie, we know that this is a difficult time for you and your family but wanted to let you know that you and Gerald's family are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Bonnie and Terry Anthony*

Bonnie Anthony - March 02, 2019 at 09:26 AM

VS

“ Jessica and Jonah. I am very sorry to hear about your loss; a terrible tragedy, a loving husband and father, so young and full of life. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Victor Sousa - March 01, 2019 at 08:41 PM

BM

“ Donnie and Chris ::: Kay and I are heartbroken at your loss. Donnie, we ALWAYS asked about each other's kids here at the farm and at the post office, and we are so sorry to learn of Gerald's passing. Our deepest condolences.

Bill and Kay MacIntosh

Bill MacIntosh - February 27, 2019 at 02:54 PM

GC

“ We are saddened by the tragic loss of your life partner and best friend, Jess. Our heartfelt thoughts are with you, Jonah, your mom, sister, and entire family. Gerald was a fine person and contributed much in his too short lifespan. We will always remember his bright smile, wit, and love of family. We grieve with you. May Gerald's life and his memory be for a blessing. Lieba and Gerald Cohen

gerald and Lieba Cohen - February 25, 2019 at 07:18 PM

CS

“ Chris, I'm so sorry to hear this news. My heart and prayers goes out to you and your family.



Chris Schrock - February 22, 2019 at 10:10 AM

AM

“ I worked with Gerald for 4 years at SeraCare Life Sciences. He was definitely one of a kind and just all around an awesome person to know. He always found a way to make the work day entertaining just by having a simple conversation, listening to good music, or telling a joke just to make someone smile. He would never hesitate to help someone if needed. Gerald was truly a one of a kind. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, his wife as well as his children.

Aimee Hawes

Amanda - February 22, 2019 at 09:11 AM

RT

“ Roni Thomas sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Roni Thomas - February 22, 2019 at 09:08 AM

AM

“ We are heartbroken for you loss. Your family is in our prayers.  
The Wehinger family  
OES

Amy - February 21, 2019 at 09:19 PM



“ Rosie Gagalski lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Rosie Gagalski - February 21, 2019 at 12:54 PM

MS

“ *Mary Simmons lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



**Mary Simmons** - February 21, 2019 at 12:43 PM

MS

*I am so very sorry for your loss. Keeping your family and Nita in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Mary*

**Mary Simmons** - February 21, 2019 at 12:45 PM

JH

*On behalf of the staff of the Weinberg Center for the Arts I am very sorry to hear of your loss. We will keep David and Jessica and their families in our thoughts. John Healey*

**John Healey** - February 22, 2019 at 12:17 PM

DI

“ *Chris,  
While Glenn and I did not know your son, we know he was loved,  
and will be missed more than we can possibly imagine. Our  
thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Diana and Glenn wilson*

**Diana** - February 21, 2019 at 12:14 PM

EI

“ *Elliott Haines III sent a virtual gift in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



**elliott haines III** - February 21, 2019 at 12:12 PM

AB

“ I didn't know Gerald but he seems like he was a very kind and caring man, and my heart goes out to Jessica and Jonah at this difficult time.

*Adam Book*

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**Adam Book** - February 21, 2019 at 08:24 AM

AK

“ I briefly worked with Gerald. He was very kind and genuinely nice. I am so very sorry for your loss.

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**Anne Keeney** - February 21, 2019 at 07:49 AM

PH

“ Chris and Donnie, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Pam Halliwell

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**Pamela B Halliwell** - February 21, 2019 at 07:11 AM

JE

“ Josh Elbourn lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



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**Josh Elbourn** - February 21, 2019 at 05:28 AM

JE

*To the entire family please know that Edith and myself send our love and prayers.*

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**Josh Elbourn** - February 21, 2019 at 05:30 AM

JP

“ Dear Jessica, Hanna and I are very sorry for your tragic loss

Jeff & Hanna Pearlman - February 21, 2019 at 03:17 AM

AE

“ Jess, we are thinking of your family and sending love your way.

Amanda E. - February 21, 2019 at 03:16 AM

DB

“ Jessica, I am so sorry for your loss. Sending hugs and prayers.

Denise Berry - February 20, 2019 at 09:45 PM

AI

“ Dear Jessica, I remember when you were Ms Fitzwater and then when you weren't. I remember when you shared the news of your marriage and when you showed our class your wedding pictures (and when I thought that the pictures of the wedding rings were two turtles). I remember how happy you two were and I remember feeling happy for you. I'm really sorry for you and your family's loss as although I didn't know Gerald well, I knew how happy you two were together. To lose such a precious person isn't easy and I hope you are able to properly mourn him with your friends and family.

Sincerely yours,  
Maira Ainsworth

Ainsworth - February 20, 2019 at 08:36 PM



“ Jessica, the Vaughn-Smith family sends our heartfelt condolences for your loss. You are in our prayers during this trying time. 🙏

Matthew Vaughn-Smith - February 20, 2019 at 08:35 PM

AF

“ Dear Jessica, I am so very sorry for your loss. You, your son, and your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. The Fish Family

Angie Fish - February 20, 2019 at 07:53 PM

LE

“ Chris and Donnie, our entire family is torn up about this news. Gerald was a polite and fun boy! Although we saw very little of him the past few years, he will always be in our hearts. Much love, the Beck's

Lee - February 20, 2019 at 07:48 PM

EM

“ Jessica, I am so sorry for your loss. I'd been truly enjoying getting to know G over the past month I only wish I'd gotten to know him better sooner.

Eric Myers - February 20, 2019 at 07:16 PM

 Kim Hellman

“ Jessica, sincere condolences. I am always in awe of how incredibly lucky we are, in Frederick, to have your passion watching over us. You are an inspiration as a teacher and mom, and I can only imagine how unbelievable this situation must feel. My heart hurts for you and your little boy. Know that you have people to lean on-- family, friends, and community. Peace be with you.

Kim Hellman - February 20, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ Jessica, I'm at a loss of words. I'm truly so sorry for your loss. I pray for strength and love for you and Jonah. Much love from Jen, Michael, Charlotte + Graham Weiss

Jennifer Weiss - February 20, 2019 at 06:13 PM

RK

“ I will remember the pride he always showed in the political accomplishments of his wife and his unwavering support for her - plus the love I always saw him show to her and his son. May HaShem send you and your family comfort in your grief - may his memory always shine bright in your heart.

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**Richard Kap Kaplowitz** - February 20, 2019 at 05:06 PM

DH

“ Jessica, my heart breaks for you and your young son. I wish I had something to say that would ease your sense of loss but words fail me at this sad, sad time. Please know that you and your family are in the thoughts and prayers of many people and we will all be here to lift you up when needed.

*My heartfelt sympathy,*

*Diana Halleman*

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**Diana Halleman** - February 20, 2019 at 04:10 PM

JD

“ Dearest Jessica,  
We were so shocked and deeply saddened on hearing about the sudden loss of G. Please know that we are among the many who are here for you and Jonah, and let us know if we can be of support in any way.

*You and Jonah are in our hearts and our prayers, as are the members of your extended families.*

*Jack and Val Dale*

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**Jack and Val Dale** - February 20, 2019 at 03:54 PM



*Oh Jessica, my heart is breaking for you. I have no words.*

**Gail Norman** - February 20, 2019 at 03:57 PM



*“ The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil.*

*Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. Isaiah 57:1&2*

*Donnie and Chris, my heart breaks for you both. God be with you both, till you see him again -- and you will.*

*John A*

**John A. Groves** - February 20, 2019 at 03:23 PM



*“ Koshers Tower of Treats was purchased for the family of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III.*



February 20, 2019 at 02:48 PM



*“ Jessica,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your son Jonah and all of your family during this time.*



*Our deepest sympathy,*

*Jeff, Heidi, Sabrina & Corwin Riordan*

**Heidi Riordan** - February 20, 2019 at 02:42 PM

VI

“ G and Jess were my neighbors until last year. G was great, kind, helpful, great sense of humor. I missed them when they moved and am deeply saddened. God will bring peace and comfort as you are surrounded by the love of others. Victoria

Victoria - February 20, 2019 at 02:28 PM

WS

“ Jessica, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your young son during this time. My deepest sympathy, Wanda Scott

Wanda Scott - February 20, 2019 at 01:19 PM

VB

“ Valerie Breeden lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Valerie Breeden - February 20, 2019 at 12:46 PM

VB

“ I worked with Gerald at APUS, he was so friendly and nice to everyone around him. We called him Ger Bear. He was missed when he left Apus and will be missed from this life. My thoughts and prayers to his family. He was one of a kind .

Valerie Breeden - February 20, 2019 at 12:45 PM

MS

“ Jessica and Jonah - All of our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. -- Matt & Cindy Stegle and All the Members of the Frederick Symphony Orchestra.

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**Matthew Stegle** - February 20, 2019 at 12:32 PM

JK

“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss.  
The Kutchi family

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**Julie Kutchi** - February 20, 2019 at 11:29 AM

CG

“ I will never forget that first hearty handshake and big smile Gerald gave me when he started his first day at APUS. What a joy he was to be around! He was extremely smart, mature, professional, and absolutely so endearing and charming at the same time. I will always hold such fond memories of Gerald.

To Jessica, Jonah, and the family; I will be praying for you all during this very sad time. May the Lord bring you peace and comfort in your sorrows as only He can.

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**Corinne G.** - February 20, 2019 at 11:09 AM

SS

“ My heart grieves with you. May Gerald's memory be a blessing.

Sybil Schiffman

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**Sybil Schiffman** - February 20, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ *Leeann Deslauriers lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



Leeann Deslauriers - February 20, 2019 at 08:13 AM

MS

*I am so sorry for your and Jonah's loss . My prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Gerald's memory will be a blessing.*

monda sagalkin - February 20, 2019 at 03:36 PM

AT

“ *I don't have the right words for a time like this. But, to Aunt Chris and Uncle Donny, his sisters, his wife, his beautiful boy, and all his crazy cousins, I'm so sorry for your loss.*



Amanda Tisler - February 20, 2019 at 08:03 AM

MF

“ *Jessica, you and your extended family are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so very sorry for you and your family's loss. Words fail so completely at moments like these. Know that you are loved and supported by so many. -Malcolm Furgol and Gudrun Hofmeister*

Malcolm Furgol - February 20, 2019 at 05:04 AM

JB

“ *Joyce Benton lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Joyce Benton** - February 19, 2019 at 11:08 PM

BA

“ *To all the Family,  
So very, very sorry for your loss. Thoughts  
and prayers for all of you at this difficult time.  
Albert and Barbara*



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**Barbara Allen** - February 19, 2019 at 10:37 PM

SW

“ *Sharon Smith, Wingo lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Sharon Smith, Wingo** - February 19, 2019 at 10:13 PM

WW

“ *Jess we love you and our hearts are broken.  
Aunt Wanda and Uncle George*



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**Wanda Woodall** - February 19, 2019 at 09:47 PM

LH

“ Today was my first day back at APUS since hearing the news. And it was surreal. Nearly every task I did today has a memory of Gerald attached. From remembering how excited we were when our team was created, to working through lunch to figure out a complex Excel formula, to writing emails together. Spitballing subject line ideas and coming up with the craziest ones first, and when we got serious, shouting out, “that’s such a cliché!” Remembering how we laughed or rolled our eyes together at whatever request came down the pike.

He was my boss, my manager, but more importantly, he was my friend and mentor. He had my back - always. He was a good man and he loved Jess and Jonah so much. The last time I saw him, he showed me pictures of his family, and his smile lit up the room. He was so proud of Jonah and he was so happy. There are no words that can express my gratitude for knowing him. I’m devastated and heartbroken for his family and friends. I will miss him dearly. All my sympathy to his family and loved ones. *Laura Hunter*

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**Laura Hunter** - February 19, 2019 at 09:46 PM

CS

Jess, Our hearts are breaking for you..I've known Gerald since he was 8, watched him grow,nurture relationships with friends & family,learn &teach..never before had I seen who G had really become, until he met you.The pure joy he reflected of being a husband & a father was evident in so many ways. While we feel blessed to have had G in our lives, he will be missed terribly. *Cynthia & Uncle Gil*

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**Cynthia Slagle** - February 20, 2019 at 07:56 AM



“ Jessica, I am so so so sorry. I know you are facing the worst of what the world has to offer right now. I never met your husband but you and I know each other in the political world and you taught my wean. I unfortunately know what this is like and I very much wish you weren't going experiencing this. Lean on your loved ones and take it one day at a time.

c - February 19, 2019 at 09:26 PM



“ Donnie and Chris my deepest sympathies to you and family. Many laughs and memories of G at Melton point. Thinking of your family. Bill and Julie Marrs

bill marrs - February 19, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ Our love and prayers go out to his wonderful family. We will cherish our memories of his smile and exuberant personality. May God heal your broken hearts. Ken and Diane Warrick

Diane Warrick - February 19, 2019 at 09:19 PM



“ My heart is with you, Jessica, and G's family. I'm so very sorry.

Jaime Cacciola - February 19, 2019 at 09:18 PM



“ Nancy & Larry Meeks lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Nancy & Larry Meeks - February 19, 2019 at 09:11 PM

JG

“ *Jeanne Geibel lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



**Jeanne Geibel** - February 19, 2019 at 09:04 PM

KM

“ *There are no words to use in comprehending the magnitude of this loss. I will never forget meeting GBigs the first time. He'd just been hired at APUS, and I'd been onboard for just a couple of weeks. Gerald sat not far from me and I heard someone ask where he was from. He said Chestertown. I came out of my seat like a shot. I came to love him like my own. He and Jess were perfect together, and I know how much he loved Jonah. I know how much he loved Chris and Donnie, as well as both of his sisters. I know what family meant to him. The world is a lesser place without him. My heart hurts for all who loved him. KMo will miss you GBigs.*

**Kathi Haacke Morehead** - February 19, 2019 at 08:35 PM



“ *Jessica Fitzwater is a bright light and true gift to the students at Oakdale Elementary. Our hearts and prayers are with her and Jonah now. With deepest sympathy, The Johnson family (Jenna, Zach and Rachel)*

**Karen Johnson** - February 19, 2019 at 07:39 PM

RP

“ *I'll miss you friend.*

**Robert Perilla** - February 19, 2019 at 07:38 PM

SG

“ *Stacie Glover lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Stacie Glover** - February 19, 2019 at 07:36 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to your family Donnie and Chris.*  
*Tracey Fithian Middleton*



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**Tracey Middleton** - February 19, 2019 at 07:26 PM

CD

“ *Jess and Jonah, I am here for you in anything you may need and my thoughts are with you.*

*G was the most genuine, warm and outgoing person you could ever hope to meet. He shared his interests and passions with everyone, brought people together just because he enjoyed doing so, and was the most amazing DM you could hope to play beside or learn from. His laugh was contagious and he inspired everyone he met, even if that simply meant reminding you to roll the correct dice. We all miss you more than words can say, we will carry on the games you put so much effort and work into, and offer our love and support to your family in any way we can.*

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**Clara Daly** - February 19, 2019 at 07:19 PM

SD

“ *My heart is broken for your family. I'm sending peace and love to you and yours as you grieve his loss and celebrate his life. My kids are students of Mrs. Fitzwater and they love her so much. Hoping all these kids and their love surrounds you.*

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**Shey Detterline** - February 19, 2019 at 06:08 PM

HH

“ *Hebba Hassanein lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Hebba Hassanein** - February 19, 2019 at 05:36 PM

HH

*Dearest Jessica,  
Tarek and I send our sincerest condolences. Know you and your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.  
With love,  
Hebba*

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**Hebba Hassanein** - February 19, 2019 at 05:38 PM

NI

*As a former coworker of Gerald's, the news left me speechless and heartbroken for his family. What a great man full of life, joy, ambition, and an admirable love for his family. I'm blessed that our paths crossed in this journey of life. My prayers go out to his family and friends during this difficult time. - Nikevia Lebron*

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**Nikevia** - February 19, 2019 at 10:47 PM

DW

“ Jessica and Jonah,

*Our love and prayers are with you during this difficult time! We send our deepest condolences to you and your entire family. Molly and I will miss our chance encounters with G and Georgie when out walking!*

*David and Claudia Winkelman and Molly*

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**David Winkelman** - February 19, 2019 at 05:20 PM

BM

“ Barbara McLendon lit a candle in memory of  
Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



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**Barbara McLendon** - February 19, 2019 at 04:57 PM

MH

“ Melinda Hill lit a candle in memory of Gerald  
Donovan Bigelow III



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**Melinda Hill** - February 19, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ *Sherry Williams lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Sherry Williams** - February 19, 2019 at 09:44 AM

LB

“ *Larry & Lee Beck lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Larry & Lee Beck** - February 19, 2019 at 08:34 AM

MK

“ *Marshall And Robin Klinefelter lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Marshall and Robin Klinefelter** - February 19, 2019 at 07:42 AM

LS

“ *Liz Smith lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Liz Smith** - February 19, 2019 at 07:02 AM

MG

“ *Merritt & Linda George lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Merritt & Linda George** - February 18, 2019 at 10:17 PM

CF

“ *Connie Fithian lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Connie Fithian** - February 18, 2019 at 09:39 PM

MJ

“ *Mark & Sandy Joiner lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Mark & Sandy Joiner** - February 18, 2019 at 07:48 PM

MJ

*Donnie & Chris, we are heartbroken for you and your family, and you are in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs too*

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**Mark & Sandy Joiner** - February 18, 2019 at 07:49 PM

DS

“ *All our love to you  
Todd & Diane*



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**Diane Smith** - February 18, 2019 at 07:38 PM

PC

“ *Peggy Clothier lit a candle in memory of  
Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Peggy Clothier** - February 18, 2019 at 06:56 PM

DK

“ *Debbie And Jack Kemp lit a candle in  
memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**debbie and jack kemp** - February 18, 2019 at 06:32 PM

KO

“ *Karen O'connor lit a candle in memory of  
Gerald Donovan Bigelow III*



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**Karen O'connor** - February 18, 2019 at 06:28 PM



“ To the entire Bigelow family, my heart breaks for you upon seeing this. Way too young. Wrapping you in prayer, love and light.

Hugs,  
Gretchen and Jim Kohl



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**Gretchen Kohl** - February 18, 2019 at 05:41 PM

JS

“ Janet Seward lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



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**Janet Seward** - February 18, 2019 at 05:29 PM

JB

“ Jim And Louise Bigelow lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



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**Jim and Louise Bigelow** - February 18, 2019 at 01:44 PM

RJ

“ ROBBIE-ROBIN JOINER lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



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**ROBBIE-ROBIN JOINER** - February 18, 2019 at 01:29 PM

FL

“ So shocked to read this. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. You know where we are if you need anything at all. Hugs.



Frankie and Cathy Legg - February 18, 2019 at 01:22 PM

MU

“ Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Marie Usilton - February 18, 2019 at 01:04 PM

CA

“ Cheryl Anderson lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Cheryl Anderson - February 18, 2019 at 12:30 PM

CC

“ Chestertown Cardiology lit a candle in memory of Gerald Donovan Bigelow III



Chestertown Cardiology - February 18, 2019 at 11:31 AM