Kent St. Clair Donovan

DONOVAN, KENT ST. CLAIR, age 57, of Birmingham, was born on November 10, 1947, and passed away on July 17, 2005. He attended Shades Valley High School, where he was a member of the KOBE fraternity, and graduated from The Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1966. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1970, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. After graduating from college, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he was a songwriter. He then spent 33 years working in the coffee industry, the first 25 years of which he spent at the Donovan Coffee Company, makers of Red Diamond Coffee and Tea, which was founded by his grandfather, William Fitz Donovan, in 1906 and sold by the Donovan family in 1991 upon the retirement of his father, John St. Clair Donovan. After his retirement from the coffee industry, Mr. Donovan was active in the local music scene, playing with a number of bands and teaching piano lessons at Bailey Brothers Music Company. Mr. Donovan served as president of the Southern Coffee Association, a director of the Epilepsy Foundation and a director of the Jefferson Alcohols' Foundation. He was a member of Mountain Brook Club and spent countless hours on the course with the Strokers golf group. Later in life, he was an avid bass fisherman. He volunteered as coach for several of his children's sports teams, including baseball, basketball and wrestling. Mr. Donovan was predeceased by his parents, John St. Clair Donovan and Helen Mason Donovan; by his brother, John Bruce Donovan; and by his nephew, John St. Clair Donovan II. He is survived by a son, Robert St. Clair Donovan of Nashville, Tennessee; a daughter, Brooke Donovan Abola of Oakland, California; a son, Drake St. Clair Donovan of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; a daughter, Emily Kent Donovan of Birmingham; two granddaughters, Abigail Rose Donovan and Hattie Brooke Donovan, both of Nashville; a daughter-in-law, Anna Kate Donovan of Nashville; and a son-in-law, Alan Francis Abola of Oakland. In addition, he is survived by three brothers, Marvin Mason Donovan of Birmingham, William Fitz Donovan of Marietta, Georgia, and Jefferson Flowers Donovan of Birmingham. The family will receive friends on Friday, July 22, 2005, at 1 p.m. in the Parlor of Canterbury United Methodist Church, Mountain Brook, Alabama, followed by a Memorial Service at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The interment will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Elmwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Drake St. Clair Donovan and Emily Kent Donovan College Fund, in care of Lessie Brady at First Commercial Bank, P.O. Box 11746, Birmingham, AL 35202-1746; Alzheimer's of Central Alabama, P.O. Box 2273, Birmingham, AL 35201; or to the Jefferson Alcohols' Foundation, 2012 14th Ave. S., Birmingham, AL 35205-3810. Ridout's Southside Chapel, 251-5254, is directing.
