



## Don Franklin Fig

March 26, 1937 - April 1, 2020

Don Franklin Fig, 83, husband of Susie Givens Fig, passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at his home. He was born March 26, 1937 in Big Stone Gap, Virginia to the late Frank and Eva Gilliam Fig. He was a 1957 graduate of Appalachia High School, Appalachia, Virginia and studied at the University of Florida. Don was a United States Forest Service ranger for over 50 years, serving the Gorge and its all of its visitors. He was involved in Rescue Operations, uncountable public appearances, KET Specials and served as the authoritative historian on the region. Don was also the author of Tales of the Red River Gorge, sharing many stories of his encounters in our region. Survivors include, beloved wife of 59 years, Susie Fig, Stanton; brother, Raymond Fig, Gate City, Virginia; several nieces and nephews. Services will be scheduled at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Don was always so nice when he would come into the store and he was always the same friendly and helpful when you ran to him out in the Gorge. He sure was a good man.

Bonnie Smith - April 10, 2020 at 05:56 PM

WH

“ Wendy Haney lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Wendy Haney - April 05, 2020 at 11:28 AM

RA

“ Truly a great man and role model whom mentored me since I was a teen-ager Don will be missed by so many people that crossed his path and had the joy of knowing him. My prayers are with you Susie. Rob Armstrong



Rob Armstrong - April 04, 2020 at 08:20 PM

DM

“ Dearest Susie....our hearts are with you. We love you so much. Marcy and Dwayne Moore

Dwayne & Marcy Moore - April 04, 2020 at 11:10 AM

DM

“ Dwayne & Marcy Moore lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



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**Dwayne & Marcy Moore** - April 04, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ He made me proud to be part of his life and share stories with him. I love him and Susie. You have my heart and prayers.

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**Lisa Jeanes** - April 03, 2020 at 07:18 PM

DC

“ Diana Fig Collier lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



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**Diana Fig Collier** - April 03, 2020 at 05:45 PM

LB

“ I worked under Don in the late 70's as a college student intern. My feelings about Don would be to say that he was kind, careful, and steady in all his actions, words, and deeds.

*Without a doubt, in the minds and hearts of many of us who knew him so well, he will always be the "Gentle Giant of the Red River Gorge".*

*Lewis Bradley*

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**Lewis Bradley** - April 03, 2020 at 03:02 PM

RJ

“ Since I live in another state, most of my memories of Uncle Don were during summer visits as a young boy. We were lucky enough to get to try spelunking and rapelling and all sorts of explorations...with the benefit of being personally guided by him. I remember that every time we visited, he was always trying to give us something of his to take with us. I have a couple of those gifts with me still after 40 years, and I will treasure them now as I did before. Thanks for the memories Uncle Don.  
*Robert Fig, Jr.*



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**Robert Fig, Jr.** - April 03, 2020 at 08:35 AM

PF

“ *Paul Finke lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig*



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**Paul Finke** - April 03, 2020 at 05:27 AM

MJ

“ *M. Arnett Jr lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig*



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**M. Arnett Jr** - April 03, 2020 at 01:10 AM

MT

“ *Mike Townsend lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig*



Mike Townsend - April 02, 2020 at 08:56 PM

BB

“ *Beverly Brock lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig*



Beverly Brock - April 02, 2020 at 08:51 PM

YM

“ *I am honored to have known & worked with the True Legend of the Red River Gorge. Don was one of a kind. God bless the Fig family. RIP dear friend.*  
*Yvonne Wells Milligan*



Yvonne Wells Milligan - April 02, 2020 at 05:08 PM

TE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Tim Eling - April 02, 2020 at 03:27 PM

DO

“ Dan Olsen lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Dan Olsen - April 02, 2020 at 01:29 PM

AN

“ Allen Neal lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Allen Neal - April 02, 2020 at 01:07 PM

KS

“ Kenneth Scarberry lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Kenneth Scarberry - April 02, 2020 at 12:55 PM

KB

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Kevin Breen - April 02, 2020 at 10:46 AM

JB

“ Don was my hero. I looked up to him as a child and later worked with over the years. He taught me every thing I know about Search and Rescue. More important he taught me to be a man. Taught me to be honest. To serve my community. To serve my fellow man. Taught me how to be a good leader. Taught me how to be a gentleman. I can only hope I have turned out to be the tenth of man Don was There are many of us that would not be where we are at without Don. He supported everything that I ever tried to do. He would get you back on track if you swerved a little. He was the Best. I hope in my career I have helped others as Don did. I loved him like a Dad. Any many ways he was a Dad to many of us that had the privilege to grow up in his presence.

J L Bowen - April 02, 2020 at 10:00 AM

LL

“ Lynn Lane lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Lynn Lane - April 02, 2020 at 09:56 AM

TE

“ Don was such an amazing man and dedicated public servant. Don saved countless lives over his long distinguished career with the US Forest Service. RIP Don Fig!

Tim Eling - April 02, 2020 at 09:15 AM

AH

“ Susie I am so sorry for your loss. Don was very passionate and had a great love for his job on the Daniel Boone NF, in the Red River Gorge.

Anita Hall - April 02, 2020 at 08:31 AM

LB

“ Don Fig was a Great Man and Champion of the Red River Gorge, "Semper Fi" Marine, RIP. Lee Breth US Forest

Lee Breth - April 02, 2020 at 08:22 AM

JL

“ Jeffrey Lewis lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Jeffrey Lewis - April 02, 2020 at 08:17 AM

AH

“ Anita Hall lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Anita Hall - April 02, 2020 at 08:15 AM

KH

“ *Kathy Hall lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig*



Kathy Hall - April 02, 2020 at 07:28 AM

CW

“ *Clayton & Jenny Wise lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig*



Clayton & Jenny Wise - April 01, 2020 at 09:48 PM

  
Cynthia  
McDaniel

“ *I am so saddened to hear of the passing of this wonderful man. He and his wife, Susie, are two of the nicest people I have ever met. Don lived a life that was an inspiration to all others. He was a kind, caring, respectful, and hard working man, putting in many long hours as a forest ranger in the gorge. Everybody that met him, liked him immediately. Many years ago, when we owned Parkway Grocery in Slade, Don was a daily customer of ours. He was always friendly and talkative and we all enjoyed talking with him. He always had a smile on his face, even after working long hours. He usually stopped by to get gas, and usually had a story or two to tell. We always enjoyed listening to him. I would have to say that he knew the gorge area better than anybody and could tell you about anything concerning this area that you wanted to know. He was well respected by this community and we will all miss him. Susie, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Cynthia McDaniel - April 01, 2020 at 08:44 PM

DS

“ Donna Sparks lit a candle in memory of Don Franklin Fig



Donna Sparks - April 01, 2020 at 07:51 PM

DS

*i remember him when i worked for the Daniel Boone forester dept. summer time program. he was a very nice person.*

Donna Sparks - April 01, 2020 at 07:58 PM

TS

“ I'm so sorry Suzie .



Teresa spencer - April 01, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ I'm so saddened to hear this. Don was a mentor to me in the late 80's, early 90's when I was beginning my EMS career and worked with him performing rescues in the RRG. He was one of the best and always willing to teach and pass on his wisdom. A truly great man.



Omer Caldwell - April 01, 2020 at 04:50 PM

CG

*God blessed Powell County with Don Figs & Don blessed Powell County. May he RIP. Prayers for the family.*

Cebert Gilbert - April 02, 2020 at 09:04 AM

JM

“ I am saddened to hear this. Don was a great friend when I was in Powell County in the 80s. From both the newspaper and the rescue standpoints, he was a huge help whenever there was an incident in the RRG — and there were many. He and Susie were always very good friends. I'm sorry for your loss, Susie. I'm sorry for the community's loss, for Don Fig was a wealth of knowledge, and I am truly a better person to have known him.  
James Mulcahy

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**James Mulcahy** - April 01, 2020 at 03:46 PM

KG

Susie, I'm so sad to hear about Don. He will always remain in my memories as the quiet keeper of the Red River Gorge. Love and prayers for your strength.

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**Karen Graham** - April 01, 2020 at 05:08 PM

MT

So sorry for your loss. I had the opportunity to work with him at the Forest Service.

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**Marlene Tackett** - April 01, 2020 at 06:00 PM

DM

I'm very saddened to hear of Don's passing. Don WAS 'Mr. Red River Gorge'. I have never met a more dedicated Forest Service employee. I was proud to have had the privilege to work with him. Rest In Peace Don.

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**Dave Manner** - April 02, 2020 at 08:55 AM

KL

Such sad news. Don was a larger than life figure when I worked on the Daniel Boone National Forest in the 1990s and early 2000s. His commitment and dedication to his work was recognized and respected by all who knew him. My condolences to his family.

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**Kevin Lawrence** - April 02, 2020 at 09:12 AM