



Donald Fredrick Backlund, D.D.S

November 24, 2017

Donald Fredrick Backlund was born to Roy H. Backlund and Dorothy M. (Schwartz) Backlund on September 8, 1922 in Pipestone Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 1946. He married Jane Whiteside on March 4, 1945 at the Minneapolis United Methodist Church. After his graduation, he entered the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant and he and his wife were transferred to Sapporo, Japan with the U.S. Army of Occupation. Don returned to the United States in 1949 and settled with his wife in Kenosha Wisconsin to practice dentistry for the next 36 years.

Don was an active member of his community and his profession. He was a member of the Wisconsin Dental Forum and the International College of Dentists. He was a member of the Kenosha County Library Board, the Kenosha County Museum, and the board of the Penoyer Home. He was a past Master of Masonic Lodge 10, and was a deacon of the Kenosha United Methodist Church.

Don loved reading history, especially the Civil War and western American history. He was a member of the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable for many years, and the family spent many short holidays going to Civil War battlefields. Don hunted for many years with his brother Gib and his brother-in-law Marvin for pheasant, deer, geese, and unsuccessfully for elk. He also loved to fish, especially with his dad and his son. Don was a wonderful woodworker. He built a garage, a porch, a living room on his cabin in Minocqua WI, and many pieces of furniture for family and friends. He loved all kinds of music, especially 1940s jazz, big band music, and Dixieland jazz.

Don and his wife retired to Wyoming for retirement and enjoyed a great group of friends on Green Creek in Wapiti. He was a Friend of the Library in Cody. Jane died in 2006 and Don moved to Cody. Don traveled with his daughter Nancy to London, Washington D.C., Rome, New York City, and the Panama Canal. He discovered that he loved to travel overseas even though he was legally blind. Don moved with his daughter Nancy to Coon Rapids Minnesota and still traveled in the U.S. for 3 more years. He especially enjoyed going to Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and to the local jazz club.

Don died on November 24, 2017 at home in Coon Rapids. He is survived by his daughters Barbara Crooks of Manhattan Kansas, Nancy of Coon Rapids; his sister Lulabeth Stromberg of Pipestone; 2 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Jane; his brother Gib; and his beloved son Maj. Donald Roy Backlund, USAF. He will be buried in Pipestone and a Remembrance is planned for the spring of 2018.

Memorials may be sent to The Backlund Symposium at the United States Air Force Academy or the Shriners Children's Hospitals.