



## Donald John Almquist

January 3, 1926 - June 24, 2020

Almquist, Donald John Age 94 of New Hope, MN passed away June 24th. A Covid-19 survivor, Don was a family man. His family and extended family were the focus of his life. Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Mabel (Holmes), his brother Eugene of Los Angeles, and his sister Marilyn Botker of Clinton, MN. He is survived by his loving wife of 71 years, Rhoda (Walstad); daughters Annette Fidely (Ron) and Judy Delaney (Bob); grandchildren Leah Grover (Brent), Mark Fidely, and Michael and John Delaney; and great-granddaughter Sula Rose Grover. Don was born in Minneapolis in 1926. He met Rhoda in 6th grade. She would bring his books home from school, so he could deliver newspapers. Don attended Columbia Heights High School. Applying his mechanical skills, Don started working at the Soo Line Railroad Shoreham Shops in 1942 at age 16. This experience prepared him for his role in the US Army in WWII. Don served with the 744th Railway Operating Battalion. After training at Fort Snelling, his unit deployed to France two months after D-Day. Nicknamed "The Queue Busters", his unit forwarded war material to the Western Front. Don served until April of 1946, and related his experiences to the WWII Round Table at Ft. Snelling in the 1990's. After the war Don attended Dunwoody Institute, while working as a machinist apprentice at the Soo Line. He spent 42 years at the Shoreham Shops as a machinist, retiring in 1986. One highlight of his career was restoration work on the Lake Harriet Streetcar. In retirement Don volunteered with the Northwest Kiwanis group. He also served his Grammercy Northwest

community by maintaining their property and van, while providing many rides for its residents. He and Rhoda wintered in Arizona many years, and travelled throughout the US and Europe, including revisiting Normandy. Don will be missed by his family and friends. Private Service Tuesday June 30th. Private interment Wednesday July 1st, at Fort Snelling Nat'l Cemetery. Memorials to Dunwoody Institute, Grace Hospice, and St. Therese Care Center, New Hope. Washburn-McReavy.com Glen Haven Chapel 763-533-8643