



Donald A. Anderson

July 26, 2018

Donald Allen Anderson

Funeral 10:30AM, August 1, 2018 at the Washburn McReavy Funeral Home, Coon Rapids MN. Visitation 1-hour prior. Burial 2:00 PM at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, 15550 Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN 56345.

At the age of 86, in Coon Rapids, Don passed away peacefully with several loving family members by his side on Thursday, July 26 at 9:20pm.

Donald was preceded in death by his wife Gladys, his parents Albert Anderson and Bertha (Loe) Anderson, his brothers Robert, John, and David, his sister Betty Harris, and granddaughter, Katrina Anderson.

He is survived by children Mark (Kaz) Anderson, Donald Jr (Mary) Anderson, Dale (Julie) Anderson, James (Dawn) Anderson, Joel (Char) Anderson, Paul (LuAnn) Anderson, Gary (Kris) Anderson, Carol (Steven) Marcio.

Grandchildren Debbie (Mark) Mueller, Ken (Karin) Munroe, Sonya (Ben) Kloos, Denny Anderson, Donnie Anderson III, Derek Anderson, Noah Anderson, Josh (Amanda) Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Billy Anderson, Allen (Amanda)Anderson, Lindsey Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Kirk Anderson, Halley Anderson, Tyler (Chelsey) Marcio, Cassie (Keith) Rombach, Tommy Marcio. Great Grandchildren Chris, Brandon and Katelyn Mueller, Kai Kloos, Donnie Anderson IV, Leland and Landon Anderson, Reagan Marcio, Carter, Conner and Calvin Rombach, and numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

Donald was a loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Brother, Uncle and Friend.

Donald was born in Minneapolis on May 11th, 1932. He was the youngest of five children. He left school at tenth grade and went to work on his brother Robert's farm in Foxhome, MN until he joined the Army on May 16, 1949. He served in the Korean War as a paratrooper until September 19th, 1952. He took great pride in serving his country and earned several medals. Don's military service was in the 101st Airborne Division's 187th Regimental Combat Team. This was a Special Forces Unit. During this time, he completed 17 parachute jumps, three of which were combat jumps. He fought in the Battle of Inchon to recapture the airport, a battle to recover the capital city of Pyongyang in an attempt to recover POW's being transported to China, and his final combat jump was on Mountain 101 where his unit was outmanned 1000 to 1. They took fire on their own position to prevent being overrun by the enemy. Fifty percent of his unit was lost that day.

For his service he was awarded many decorations. The Combat Infantry Badge which is awarded to infantry and special forces who fought in active ground combat. The Glider Badge for being in an Airborne Unit. The Bronze Arrowhead for being a combat parachute initial landing. These were only for an initial landing in wartime and were only issued twice in history. Once in WWII, and once in Korea. The Korean Service Medal from the US for serving in Korea, the UN Service Medal from the United Nations for serving in Korea, and FOUR Bronze Service Stars for Heroic Achievement, Heroic Service, and Meritorious Service in a Combat Zone. Both of his parents passed away while he was serving in the Korean War and he was unable to come home to attend their funerals.

When he returned home he took a job with NSP. He married Gladys Peterson on November 20, 1953. They lived in the North Branch area until 1962 when they moved to Coon Rapids. In 1966 they built their cabin in Nevis and spent many memorable times there until Donald retired from NSP in the 1980's, when they moved up north to make the cabin their home.

Donald held many positions at NSP where he worked for 35 years. He was extremely knowledgeable about electrical work and passed that knowledge on

to several of his sons. He was a proud member of IBEW Local 160 and was on the executive board for many years. He was very involved in the union and at one time volunteered his time and knowledge to do the wiring for Camp Courage when they built cabins. He had a great interest in politics and always made a point to go to local caucuses. He stressed the importance of voting and being involved. He taught his children that if they did not vote they had no right to complain.

He was very talented with woodworking and built the cabin himself. He added on to the cabin over the years and built the outbuildings. He even built a playhouse for Carol! Several of the grandchildren had sandboxes or bug barns made especially for them by Grandpa.

Donald loved life and lived it well. He loved fishing and instilled that love in his children and grandchildren. When we would go to the cabin on a Friday night, Dad and Mom had to take a trip around the back bay fishing before we could unload the car. He enjoyed golfing when he was young and going out to the playground to play ball with his boys. He played competitive fast pitch softball in the 50s. Donald was an avid and competitive card player. He knew how to play anything and taught his kids how to play cards at a young age. He loved Cribbage, Euchre, Uno, Pinochle, Canasta, Spite/Malice, and of course "Glen's Game". After retirement he and Gladys also loved their casino dates. They enjoyed playing Keno, as well as the other games. They had extensive discussions on their differing ideas of how the games should be played, and it was always fun to listen to them! He enjoyed playing Nintendo, watching the Vikings, Star Trek, and shooting off bottle rockets and fireworks purchased in North Dakota. The last couple of years he thoroughly enjoyed going to the movie theater with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It was extra special when the four generations of Donald Anderson's would go see a movie together. He loved spending time with family and had a great love for his children, and all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren had a very special place in his heart.

Donald was an extraordinary example of what a man should be. He had a great love for his wife, Gladys. They spent all their free time together and truly enjoyed each other's company. He worked incredibly hard to support his very large family (8 children). He taught his children about what it meant to have a good work ethic, to have integrity, to be dependable, and to respect others. He was a Scoutmaster for several years when his sons were in the Cub Scouts. He also believed that it was okay to have fun, to have a sense of humor, and enjoy a good laugh.

He now resides in Heaven with those loved ones that went before him and we find peace in knowing he is with Jesus and free of pain. We will miss him until we are reunited again in the loving arms of our dear Lord!

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Coon Rapids Chapel 763-767-1000

Previous Events

Burial

AUG 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Little Falls
15550 MN-115
Little Falls, MN 56345

Tribute Wall

CS

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your father, Don. I have fond memories of Don and Gladys from my years growing up on 119th Ave. Thinking of all of you.

Cindy Syverson - August 01, 2018 at 09:01 AM

FF

“ Fred, Jan, Butch, Karen, Sharon, and families purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Donald A. Anderson.



Fred, Jan, Butch, Karen, Sharon, and families - July 31, 2018 at 03:27 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald A. Anderson.



July 30, 2018 at 08:54 PM



“ Trying to find the right words to express my sympathy is hard. He's the person you look up to for help, love, and comfort no matter your age or his age. May your memories help keep him close in your heart. Please extend my sympathies to your mom and the rest of your family

Ann Danko - July 30, 2018 at 07:11 PM

LK

“ Sending you all my love and my heartfelt sympathy. If I can help in anyway, please don't hesitate to ask. Lots of blessings and hugs,
Lori Kruger

Lori K - July 30, 2018 at 03:02 PM

AN

“ My sincere condolences go to the family. I would like to share a Comforting thought from the bible found at Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your mental powers by means of Christ Jesus. 🌻

Anastasia - July 30, 2018 at 11:16 AM

FB

“ Flagship Bank purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Donald A. Anderson.



Flagship Bank - July 30, 2018 at 10:09 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald A. Anderson.



July 30, 2018 at 09:24 AM

 Susan
Lewis

“ One year Mom and I took a trip to Minnesota for a visit. We spent 2 days and 2 nights at the cabin with Don and Gladys. It was SOOOOO COLD!! Uncle Don got up the second morning and said "Oh, look girls...it's warming up! It's one above"! They were always such wonderful hosts.

Susan Lewis - July 30, 2018 at 09:22 AM