



Donald Walter Carlson

January 24, 1924 - April 1, 2020

Carlson, Donald W. Don Carlson's father died when he was 7, and his mother when he was 11. Maybe that's why Don always made sure, for the rest of his years, that family was close by. Don died April 1 after 96 years spent mostly in Minnesota. As a boy, he was raised by his older brother, George, on farmland near Annandale. Don later became Lorraine Carlson's husband and raised three boys in a Hopkins house that was a gathering spot for decades. Keeping family close required little effort from Don and Lorraine. The Carlson boys' friends always felt comfortable in their house. When the boys had families of their own, if there was word of a cookout on Don and Lorraine's driveway, a birthday party, an Easter dinner, we'd come running. The BBQ-and-boat-ride parties at Bryant Lake filled the picnic area. Seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandkids, all of whom not surprisingly live driving distance from Don and Lorraine's house, will carry their legacy forward. Don spent two years in the Pacific during World War II. He came home with two Purple Hearts and a stronger passion for talking to and meeting people. He had spent the final year of his service as a military police radio dispatcher in Japan. Years later, at a reunion, Don introduced himself to a man who responded: "I know who you are. I'd know that voice anywhere." Don made strangers into friends. He delivered mail in Edina for the U.S. Postal Service for over 30 years. He seemed to work harder in retirement, attending events and games all over town for his grandkids and fixing everything under the sun for family, friends and neighbors. He hunted for treasures at garage sales and took on

woodworking projects with his daughters-in-law. Don's sons were always checking in on him, although it was often hard to tell who was watching over who. Don's sons were his best friends. The Carlson Boys, young and old, gave Hopkins all it could handle. Don never stopped learning. In his 80s and 90s, he learned how to use a computer, his tablet, his smartphone and social media. His mind and curiosity raced, even when his body slowed. Don had a great laugh, and it was with him to the end. Don is survived by his sons, Jon and Jay, and their families. Don was preceded in death by Lorraine and oldest son, Gary. He missed those two every day. No longer. A celebration of Don's life will occur later this year when it's safe to gather again. While we wait for that day, Don's family requests you honor him with a phone call or a letter or a message of any kind to someone you love. Reaching out, talking and listening, laughing, bringing joy to others -- this is what Don did best. Memorial service will be held at 2PM on Saturday, November 13th with visitation one hour prior, all at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 13. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Chapel Service

NOV 13. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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