



Donald John Haapoja

September 23, 1947 - November 3, 2025

Donald John Haapoja was born on Sept. 23, 1947, in Aitkin to John and Elma Haapoja of Tamarack, MN. He spent a wonderful life on the farm. He attended McGregor schools and graduated in 1965. In 1968 he graduated from Brainerd Vocational School where he met Shirley Bloom, the love of his life. He went on to work for the University of MN for 50 years before retiring in 2018. He and Shirley married on September 27, 1969, in Little Falls, MN. Don loved gardening, fishing, and attending various auctions. He enjoyed working on crosswords and jigsaw puzzles with his wife Shirley. He loved going on small trips and being with family. He was a man of few words, but his presence was larger than life.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years Shirley, sons Matthew (Carla), Michael (Kristen), David (Andrea), Brian (Katie), grandchildren Alicia, Michael Jr. (Sadie), Ava, Emmalynn, Logan, and Brooklynn, great-grand children Alina and Arianna, sister-in-law Ellen Ukura, and nephew Mark

Preceded in death by his parents John and Elma, brothers Harry and Russell, and daughter-in-law Lisa.

The family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Meadows on Fairview TCU for the great care and compassion provided to Don and family during his last few months. Thanks to the Doctors and Nurses at FV Southdale and UMMC and especially to his long-standing kidney specialist.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **12.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church
11115 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Memorial Service

NOV **12.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church - Coon Rapids
11115 Hanson Blvd. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Mike & Carol Schwartz, Higgins Families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donald John Haapoja.



Mike & Carol Schwartz, Higgins Families - November 06, 2025 at 10:41 AM

MF

“ Mike & Carol Schwartz, Higgins Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald John Haapoja.

Mike & Carol Schwartz, Higgins Families - November 06, 2025 at 10:41 AM

PT

“ Dear Matt and extended family,
I'm so sorry to learn of your Dad's passing. My sincere condolences to all of you. May the Peace that passes all Understanding be with each of you. Sincerely, Pat Tedman

Pat Tedman - November 05, 2025 at 10:21 PM

 Diane Gohl

“ I met Don when my sister sherrill lived with Shirley before they got married. I had open heart surgery at the university of mn. In 1968 and Don and Shirley would come visit Me. He always had a smirky smile on his face but was so kind. He will be missed. Prayers to Shirley and family. Diane

Diane Gohl - November 05, 2025 at 07:06 PM

SK

“ Our sympathies to his family. I have been friends of Don and Shirley since 1968 when I roomed with Shirley in Brainerd and then in Minneapolis. He was a quiet guy. He and Shirley would take me with even before they married, on numerous rides. Don could find his way around anywhere in the Cities. I was bridesmaid at their wedding. I enjoyed getting together with him and Shirley at their boys confirmations and weddings. He was a family man. I'll miss his smile and quiet voice. I was truly blessed to be his friend all these years.

Sherrill(Marvin) Kriefall - November 05, 2025 at 04:24 PM

DC

“ Don was a quite man and had a heart of gold. The 4 of us went a few times for Dinner and had a wonderful visit. My Husband became friends with Don thru Shirley and myself. He will be deeply missed, I am so glad we got to spend sometime with him shortly before he did.

Diane M. Christopherson - November 05, 2025 at 04:12 PM

CP

“ Cheetah Precision purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald John Haapoja.



Cheetah Precision - November 05, 2025 at 03:31 PM

CP

“ Cheetah Precision planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald John Haapoja.

Cheetah Precision - November 05, 2025 at 03:31 PM