



Donald Otto Hempel

September 17, 1928 - July 3, 2021

age 92 of Shoreview

Passed away July 3, 2021.

Don was born in Chicago on September 17, 1928, to Otto and Anna Hempel. He served in the U.S. Army on Okinawa from September 1948 to January 1950 and in Korea from September 1950 to June 1951. Upon returning to the U.S. he began a long career as a commercial artist, serving as art director for Bastian Blessing in Chicago, which subsequently became Rego and Engineered Controls International. In 1955 he married Betty Ann Almberg, with whom he had three children. Following his divorce he eventually met his "soulmate," Rosa Nelson, and settled with her in Cable, Wisconsin upon his retirement. Don was mechanically gifted, renovating the family home with exceptional skill and enjoying building things and tinkering throughout his life. He was mischievous at work, never passing up an opportunity to draw a caricature or carry out a well-thought-out prank during idle minutes. Don was a loving father who would do anything for his children, such as single-handedly erecting above-ground pools and creating an ice rink in the backyard. Don loved nothing more than going out for dinner and drinks with friends or family and, in later years, chatting with neighbors and acquaintances he made on his daily walks and talking with treasured friends on the phone. There was no better place in the world to him than the family cabins in Cable, where he was surrounded by the beauty of lakes and trees. Don is survived by his children, Elise (Ray), Marc, and Ann (Bob), sister

Sandra, granddaughters Neenah and Gwen, and nephews Todd, Gary, and Scott.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the caring staff at Cerenity Senior Care in White Bear Lake.

Memorials may be made to the VFW.

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Otto Hempel



December 14, 2023 at 06:22 PM

JS

Beautiful video!

Judy Shipp - April 13, 2024 at 07:52 PM

SP

“ Don was a wonderfully kind and gentle person. He had a big heart and a humorous personality. In meeting Don for the first time it was like we had been lifelong friends. He opened his heart and his home to me and I was a better person for it. If you were with Don, anytime you came across someone who knew him, a big smile would appear on their face because Don had one on his. He had the rare ability to make people feel happy. I will miss our phone calls and occasional visits. Don, my world is a bit emptier without you, but I cherish your persona and our memories. Thank you Don! Rest in peace DnR.
Don n Rose

Sam & Joanie Polki - August 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ We sure will miss you my friend. You were such a blessing to my mother Rosa, and you made her so very happy. You were both meant to be with each other at the right time in both of your lives. I know how much you missed my mother after she passed, and I am sorry I didn't get to speak with you again after we spoke in June. God bless you and rest in peace.
Yours truly,
Russ & Urai Carlson

Russ Carlson - July 17, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ He was a wonderful "soulmate" for my Mom who had been widowed twice by age 56. She absolutely loved living with him in the Cable cabin for so many years. They knew every bartender in every restaurant in the Heyward area. We are so thankful for the companionship they shared for so many years. Thank you, Don!

Pat & Lyle Carlson - July 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM