



Donald Olaf Modeen Sr

May 24, 2018

Modeen, Donald Olaf Sr., Commander—US Navy-Retired
Age 93 of Edina, passed away on May 24, 2018. Preceded in death by parents, Harriet and Olaf Modeen; brother, Robert Modeen, sister-in-law, Carol Modeen; brother-in-law Michael Olson, and daughter-in-law Janet Modeen. Survived by wife Rosemary (just 40 days short of their 69th anniversary); sons Donald Jr., David (Kathy) Modeen; daughter Pamela Walker; granddaughters Jessica (Charles) Hamm, Nicole (Adam) Hark, Mackenzie (Nader) Wahba, Morgan Walker; great-grandchildren Preston and Abigail Hark, Elizabeth Wahba; sister Barbara Olson; and many nephews and nieces.

Don will be best remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather that delighted in his family's accomplishments. He enjoyed big band swing music and dancing, fast cars (as long as he was the driver), Old Fashions or martinis, jokes and songs, travel and all kinds of sports, including golf and hunting, but especially fishing and skiing (until age 83). He is remembered by his children and grandchildren for teaching them to bait, catch and clean a range of salt- and fresh-water fish.

Following graduation from Central High in Minneapolis in 1943, Don entered the Naval Aviation Cadet V-5 Program and obtained his Wings, qualifying on F4U-Corsairs. Following transfer to the Naval Reserve at the end of World War II, he enrolled at the U of M. Don's love of the dance room scene in Minneapolis resulted in him meeting his match on the dance floor.

After graduation in 1949, and a short stint working for Honeywell, Don returned to active duty for his dream job—flying Navy jets! He qualified on the new F9F Panther, and surprisingly soon was aboard the USS Princeton in the Korean theater as a member of Satan's Kittens Squadron (VF-19). He later commanded a helicopter squadron, and had tours in aviation intelligence in the U.S. and Mediterranean. Don is credited with 31 years of service to his country and was awarded 11 different service medals.

Don ended his Navy career in 1974, and settled in Edina for the remainder of his life. In a second career, Don served as Director of the Child Nutrition Program for the State of Minnesota.

Mass of Christian Burial on Monday, June 4th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of St. Patrick, Valley View at Gleason Road Edina 55439 with visitation one hour prior to Mass. Interment at 12:45 pm Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Church of St Patrick.

Previous Events

Visitation- Church of St. Patrick, Valley View at Gleason Road Edina 55439

JUN 4. 9:00 AM (CT)

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

Service- Church of St. Patrick, Valley View at Gleason Road Edina 55439

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



June 01, 2018 at 10:21 AM



“ Mary, Patty, Jean, Nancy and Laura purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



Mary, Patty, Jean, Nancy and Laura - June 01, 2018 at 12:34 AM



“ Cel purchased the Truly Beloved Bouquet for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



Cel - June 01, 2018 at 12:25 AM

F"

“ From Theresa and the Joncas "Kids" purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



From Theresa and the Joncas "Kids" - May 29, 2018 at 12:30 PM

FF

“ From your Home Depot Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



From your Home Depot Family - May 29, 2018 at 08:59 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



May 27, 2018 at 08:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Olaf Modeen Sr.



May 27, 2018 at 09:23 AM