



## Donald Leroy Severson

January 20, 1942 - November 3, 2025

Severson, Donald L. "Chip" , age 83 of Minnetonka, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2025, surrounded by his family. He is preceded in death by his parents, Mel and Eleanor Severson, and his brother, Doug Severson. He is survived by his bride of 60 years, Jeanne; two daughters, Kris and Julie, two sons-in-law, Allan and Brad, and five beloved grandchildren, Evan, Dylan, and Tristan Green, and Avery and Noah Reynolds, and numerous cousins.

Born and raised in Braham, MN, Chip enjoyed a close-knit family full of cousins. He was active in sports: baseball, football, track, and especially basketball. After high school, he completed two years at Gustavus Adolphus College and then switched gears when he realized he would "rather make things than tell someone else how to make things." He attended Dunwoody Industrial Institute for two years to become a mechanical technician. Chip's path then led him to the US Navy, where he proudly served as a Naval Flight Officer, specializing in aerial navigation, and later earned the rank of Lieutenant. In 1965, he married the love of his life, Jeanne Solum, and together they raised two wonderful daughters who brought immeasurable joy and pride. Chip worked as a machinist for Honeywell until 1972. He was then hired at Rosemount (later Emerson) where he worked for the remainder of his career until he retired in 2007. He enjoyed his job so much, he said it never felt like work. His high school athleticism continued into his adult life with league basketball, then running and later in life, long distance biking with

S.O.B. (Saints on Bikes). These activities brought him both physical and emotional health. A member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Minnetonka for more than 50 years, service was a big part of Chip's life, to his church: collecting pop cans for world hunger, painting walls, and cutting down buckthorn on the church property; to his neighbors: fixing lawnmowers, bikes, radios, or anything broken, plowing their driveways (or the street!) and helping anyway he could. Chip believed in living simply and doing good. His kindness and optimism will forever leave a mark on everyone whose life he touched.

A Celebration of Life will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Minnetonka, MN on January 2, 2026. Visitation at 10 AM, service at 11 AM.

Memorials suggested to Habitat for Humanity.

# Tribute Wall

LC

“ There are so many rich memories that flood my mind regarding Chip. It started when we were five years old and we moved into town and lived a few years across the street from the Severson family in Braham on what we called the hospital street. The neighborhood was full of kids and we would gather almost daily to play ball of one sort or another. We moved to another home a few blocks away but the gathering of kids just moved to another vacant lot. We went to school together and sang and played sports and grew up together loving our life in the small town of Braham. Sports of all kinds were central to our relationships and Chip was always in the middle of everything we did. Chip was a tall post physically but in character as well. We will miss him.

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**Lee Carlson** - December 30, 2025 at 04:24 PM

JR

Thank you so much for your wonderfully kind words about my dad!❤️

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**Julie Reynolds** - January 19 at 04:43 PM

JK

“ Chip was the best. Such a warm, kind hearted person always helping others. My parents and I (and my sister growing up) had the privilege and blessing of having Chip and Jeanne as neighbors. Without fail Chip would be outside after a big snow fall plowing the street and neighbors' driveways, including ours. Many times he helped us, whether fixing a snowblower or work project around the house. He always made time for people. Chip also loved to learn and read. I once lent him two books, which he read right away and had insightful things to say about them after. He was clearly proud of his family, and for good reason. Chip will be deeply missed and always remembered.



Jonathan Kent - December 29, 2025 at 11:29 AM

JR

Thank you for sharing your fond memories of my dad!❤️ He was one in a million!

Julie Reynolds - January 19 at 04:44 PM

DB

“ My condolences.

Don was one of the most inspirational people that I had the privilege to know and work with for 28 years.

Don hired me right out of tech school in July of 1979 and we worked side by side solving problems until his retirement in 2007. Don was more than a boss, he was a friend. He provided me guidance in life and work. This helped me make my life and career successful and i will always be grateful for that. Know that Don touched many lives in his life in a very positive way.

Blessings to you all.

Dale Bradt - December 19, 2025 at 09:31 AM

JR

*Your wonderfully kind words about my dad mean so much!❤️*

Julie Reynolds - January 19 at 04:44 PM

ST

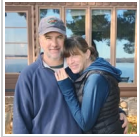
“ *Worked with Don at Rosemount (Emerson) and can't say enough about how kind a person he was to work with. Sorry for your loss to his family.*

Sally Torfin - December 12, 2025 at 09:56 AM

JR

*Thank you for sharing this!❤️*

Julie Reynolds - January 19 at 04:45 PM



“ *We had no idea what to expect when my family and I moved into the neighborhood. It didn't take long to realize how lucky we were to live across the street from a sweet as pie couple. Chip was always wanting to help in any possible way. He saw me struggling to manually "fix" my garage door one day. He walked right over and didn't need a ladder to help me! Snow and cold never bothered him and he helped us so many times clearing our driveway - that's what he did. He was always helping others. Our daughter, Zoe, was so excited one day to return the favor by shoveling their driveway before Chip noticed 😊*

*We miss them and they'll always have a special place in our hearts. Love and hugs to their wonderful family ❤️❤️*

Cindy Steffen - November 10, 2025 at 09:36 AM

YS

*I had the fortune to spend the school year 1959-1960 as a foreign exchange student in Braham. The John S Carlson family were my host and I attended the school with Lee Carlson who immediately introduced me to Chip, the tallest boy in the class. We soon found a friendship and as I travelled with the various sport teams I could see Chip from all sides. He was an outstanding performer and keeper of the team spirit. On ordinary school days he showed the interest to every person he came across. A special connection to him is that my photo and Chip's photo are side by side in the Braham Echo 1960.*  
*George Salorinne, Helsinki, Finland*

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**Yrjo Salorinne** - December 31, 2025 at 08:20 AM

JR

*Thank you so much for sharing your fond memories!❤️*

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**Julie Reynolds** - January 19 at 04:47 PM