



## Donald Karem Valenziano

November 30, 1933 - October 1, 2024

Donald (Don) Karem Valenziano

Donald (Don) Karem Valenziano, also known as "Kay", 90, of West St. Paul, Minnesota, died peacefully on October 1st, 2024 at The Sanctuary of West St. Paul. He was born on Thanksgiving Day (which was then on November 30th, 1933) in Omaha, Nebraska to Joseph Peter Valenziano and Mildred Naomi Chambers. Don graduated from Bellevue (Nebraska) High School in 1951. He also went to electronics school and later co-owned B & D's Appliance Repair Shop in Bellevue, Nebraska until he moved to St. Paul in order to take his son for treatment at Shriners Hospital.

He was married to Fern Winchester on September 15, 1951, and they had six children, Donald Jr., Laura, Diane, Amy, Lynne, and James.

He married Linda Kell on 20 Jun 1984 in Las Vegas; they had two children, Anna-Marie (Annie) and Rachel.

Don grew up working on his family's farm in Bellevue, Nebraska, selling produce at the public market in Omaha. Don spent a majority of his life in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin working in a variety of jobs associated with the grocery business. He began his career as a meat-cutter and gradually worked his way into owning his own store in New Hope, Minnesota. Later he

worked for International Paper in Wisconsin and Michigan in the 1970's and 1980's. Later in his life he managed an electronics store, drove school and charter buses, and was a clerk at a convenience store.

He was a lover of children, sports, nature, crossword puzzles, history novels, spending hours watching the birds in his backyard, gardening, taking the family on camping and hiking trips, and traveling throughout the world. For many years he was a member of the JayCees and active in community affairs.

Don is survived by six children, daughter-in-laws Lori and Shirley Valenziano, one stepchild Ronna Radke, ten grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one brother, Joel Valenziano.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Mildred, brother James, son Donald Jr., and daughter, Amy.

A memorial service and family gathering will be held at the Lake Hiawatha Community Center on November 23th at 4:30pm, officiated by Sharo'n Mathison. Don donated his remains to the University of Minnesota Anatomy Bequest Program. Interment will occur at a later date at the Bellevue Cemetery in Nebraska.