



Donald Edwards

March 4, 1933 - March 9, 2019

The Celebration of Life memorial service for Donald Edwards of Staples, will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, at the Staples Alliance Church. Visitation with the family will be held at the church on Friday from 1:30 p.m. until the time of the service.

Donald Jay Edwards, age 86, passed away at Lakewood Care Center, Staples, MN, on Saturday, March 9, 2019.

Born on March 4, 1933, in Staples, Minnesota, Don was a man of many hats throughout his lifetime: son, brother, husband, uncle, teacher, father, fisherman, grandfather, friend, hunter, great-grandfather, outdoorsman, and more. He received his education at NDSU and Moorhead State, where he met his wife, Rachel (Thompson) and began their family home in Fargo, ND. The family later relocated to Staples, MN when Don was offered a teaching position at the vocational/technical college, where he taught applied mathematics for the drafting and machine trades programs. He retired from his teaching career in 1995.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Mary; stepmother, Sarah; brother, Gene; wife, Rachel; and daughter, Lisa. He is survived by his sister, Rose (Ernie) Grossman of Maple Plain; children, Jathan (Kim) Edwards of Afton, Deanna Edwards of Moorhead, Kathryn Edwards of Staples, Kara Edwards of North St. Paul, Justin Edwards of Somerset, WI, and Rayme Edwards of Inver Grove Heights; and son-in-law Larry Sandberg of Bertha.

Don is also survived by 26 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and countless other extended family members and friends. He was well-known and respected within the community and will be missed by many, including his dog Tootsie.

Burial will be held at a later date in Evergreen Cemetery, Staples, MN.

Cemetery

Events

Evergreen Hill Cemetery

Staples, MN, 56479

**MAR
15**

Gathering of Family & Friends 01:30PM - 03:00PM

Staples Alliance Church

1512 8th St. NE, Staples, MN, US, 56479

**MAR
15**

Celebration Of Life 03:00PM

Staples Alliance Church

1512 8th St. NE, Staples, MN, US, 56479

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 13, 2019 at 07:14 PM



“ Dear Don Edwards Family and Friends,
No Minnesota farm boy in the 1940's and 1950's could have had a better uncle than I had in my dear Uncle Don.

His love of the outdoors led him and his friend (I believe it was Jack Giza) to work through all of the Boy Scout merit badges and wind up being celebrated as Eagle Scouts in a memorable Staples memorial service to them. During the late 1940's and the 1950's Don took the time to share with me many of the experiences and skills he had learned through his outdoor and civic experiences. Most of the times we spent together were when he simply visited, but he also lived with us on some weekends at my folks farm during a couple of his college year summers.

He taught me how to survival camp, how to boat safely, how to build cabin cruisers and fiberglass coated wooden Chris Craft boats, how to water ski behind a 12-foot speedboat he built with a 20 horsepower Mercury engine, how to canoe, how to better play basketball with a barn-mounted hoop, how to shoot rifles accurately and safely (at the rifle range outside Staples), and many other helpful experiences that continue to come alive in my mind as I think of him with love.

My earliest memory of Don's influence is that of hikes through the woods together and a stretched fox fur drying on a frame high on the sun side of my Folk's steel machine shed lean-to on the farm in Moran Germania where I first lived. We moved from that farm and its associated 1 room schoolhouse to Staples when I entered 2nd grade - that would have been 1949 - so Don was 16 at the time.

After we moved to a small 10 acre farm very near Staples, Don converted our 4 acre pasture into a 1 hole golf course and tried to teach me how to play. I was young and no good, so he seemed like a PGA pro to me. I'm thinking, too, that he had left-handed clubs, but that memory is weak and could be wrong.

A huge memory is when Don and I went on a canoe trip from Nisswa, Minnesota down through the 10 Crow Wing lakes and the the Crow Wing river all the way to Staples. So much fun and so many laughs as we joked and enjoyed the trip. One particularly notable memory was camping for the night on the shore of the 5th Crow Wing lake and finding the forest floor absolutely moving and covered with Walking Sticks or Stick-bugs - those Praying Mantis looking insects. I've never seen an infestation like that since.

Thank you Don for the caring person you always were to me. You graced my life with your presence and kindness. I'm sorry I can't be with you and your family and friends in person today. You and they will be in my heart and memories forever.

Love you always, Gene Grossman (and Mary Ann)

Gene Grossman - March 15, 2019 at 02:32 PM



“ "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." - Isaiah 40 ESV

Dear Edwards children, grandchildren, other family and friends,

While we are not able to attend Don's memorial service in person, rest assured we are with you all in spirit. With God's gift of Don, joined to our sister Rachel in marriage, we have received such blessings in and through your presence in our lives. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." - Proverbs 16:9 [ESV]

We appreciated Don as a dearly conscientious man, dedicated to his teaching and especially to his beloved family and friends. Now, as we entrust him into the loving arms of our Redeemer and Lord Emmanuel, we know that one day we will all be reunited in that place where we will never again have to bid one another good-bye. Thanks be to God!

"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.'" - Ephesians 4:7-8 [NKJV]

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:38-39 [ESV]

All glory to our Almighty Creator, Redeemer and Comforter! Amen.

Love from Uncle Howard & Aunt Edy T Johnson

Edy T Johnson - March 14, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Edwards.





“ 47 files added to the album LifeTributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 13, 2019 at 06:00 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Edwards.



March 13, 2019 at 10:19 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Edwards.



March 13, 2019 at 09:31 AM



“ The Extended Grossman Family purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Donald Edwards.



The Extended Grossman Family - March 12, 2019 at 05:46 PM