



Donald W. Larson

July 26, 1929 - September 9, 2018

Donald W. Larson, 89, passed away peacefully on September 9, 2018 after being hospitalized with a severe infection.

Don was born on July 26, 1929 in Waterman, Illinois to Reuben L Larson and Amalia Fredericke "Molly" Weddige Larson. He was the youngest of 4 children and worked the family farm while growing up. He fully embraced his Swedish and German heritage. Don enjoyed the unique distinction of being in the last 8th grade graduating class of the one room Stuartville schoolhouse in Kingston, Illinois in 1942, and also in the final Kingston High School graduating class in 1947.

Don was drafted into the US Army in 1954 and served for 2 years as Combat Engineer, 4th Armored Division, Company A, Fort Hood, Texas. He was extremely proud of his military service, earning the marksman and sharpshooter awards and the "Good Conduct Medal". While serving his country, Don was scouted but turned down an offer to play major league baseball for the Cincinnati Reds.

In his younger days, Don was extremely athletic and excelled at sports. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, trapping and fishing on the Kishwaukee River that ran through the family farm.

Don was a successful dairy, livestock, grain and vegetable farmer; and he farmed all of his adult life in the Kingston and Kirkland Illinois areas. He was also a gifted mechanic, tinkerer, and inventor who preferred to design and build things rather than buy a finished product. He relocated to Florida in 1986 where he eventually retired.

Don is preceded in death by his parents Reuben and Mollie, his brother Roy Larson, and sisters Irene Kammeyer and Myrtle Bass.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Grace Larson (Gradilone) of Kissimmee, Florida, son Donald Larson Jr (Adrienne) of St. Cloud, Florida, and daughter Amelia L Burke (David) of Victor, New York, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews who were very dear to him.

Don will always be fondly remembered for his unwavering devotion to family, education, honesty, integrity, generosity and his tremendous sense of humor.

Don enjoyed a life well lived, and his desire for a military ceremony, service and burial are being honored by his family as we celebrate his long, full and productive life.

Donald's final resting place will be the Cape Canaveral National Veterans Cemetery in Florida. Services will be on Friday, October 12th at 1pm. Arrangements are being handled by Fisk Funeral Home of St. Cloud, Florida and the Veterans Administration.

In lieu of flowers, honorariums are being accepted in Don's name to any of the following 3 charities that he felt so strongly about:

American Farmland Trust:

https://secure2.convio.net/aft/site/Donation2?df_id=7400&7400.donation=form1&_ga=2.67062254.1744209555.1537192972-510314105.1524078420

Disable American Veterans Charitable Service Trust:

<http://cst.dav.org/donate/Default.aspx>

Alzheimer's Association:

https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?df_id=32112&32112.donation=form1

Comments



“ Don sr. will be greatly missed ! I always looked up to him as he was intelligent, kind , funny, caring and he always treated me like I was his second son ! The Larson family is and has always been a CLASS ACT ! And Don and Grace will always hold a dear spot in my heart ! I was blessed by being able to work for Don sr. on the farm and I got to see all sides of him, and he didn't have a mean bone in his body ! Not only was Don sr. Quick witted but he was a very generous man who genuinely cared for people and his animals ! He was a very hard worker and even when he was tired and dragging he still could muster up a good joke ! He was a great man and I'll always miss him ! My heart goes out to Grace, Don jr. and Amy and wish you all well , Mike Odom, from Kingston , IL

mike odom - October 05, 2018 at 12:18 PM



“ Thank you so much for your kind words and the memories you've shared Mike. You also nailed it, Dad really did think of you as a second son and I'll always think of you as a brother for all of the above reasons and more.

Don - October 07, 2018 at 09:49 PM



“ I'll always think of him as a young man on the farm. I was at Grandma's farm as often as I could get my Dad to take me for the weekend and have many warm memories of the farm, Grandma and Uncle Donnie. What occurs to me first is walking through the pasture with him and being amazed watching him whistle to get the gophers to pop up from their holes. It astounded me every time and I never tired of it. He was warm, loving and kind with a wonderful, gentle sense of humor. I loved him so much and will always miss him.

Linda Schubring - September 20, 2018 at 08:37 PM



“ Linda, Thank you for sharing such a wonderful memory. It is uncanny, but I had just told my family a similar story... about his fabulous whistling and gopher hunting abilities.

Amy - September 29, 2018 at 07:13 AM



“ Dad tried to teach me how to whistle the gophers, but gave up and said all I was doing was alerting them, not calling them..

Don - October 07, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ While I did not have the opportunity to spend a great deal of time with Don Sr., I enjoyed the time that we did share. I visited with Don Sr. and Grace, while in FL on a family trip. We shared a LOT of laughs! I shared other joyous occasions with Don Sr (and Grace) at family celebrations. Don Sr. was always extremely kind and welcoming. I was treated like real family - not as the extension of sorts that I am. My parents always enjoyed spending time with Don Sr. and Grace, whether it be through (mail) correspondence, by phone or in person - they made it a point to keep in touch because the conversations were so "enjoyable". Don Sr. - you will be missed by all who knew you and know that it was a treat to be a part of your life. I only wish that I could have told how special you are to all of us.

Marla Burke - October 09, 2018 at 02:07 PM



“ Thank you Marla for the kind words. My parents truly enjoyed the time they spent with your family and always looked forward to talking to your Dad on the phone to stay in touch.

Amy - October 10, 2018 at 07:45 PM