



## Don Murray David

November 20, 1935 - March 27, 2021

Donald Murray David, beloved husband of Margaret Hornady died in Boston MA of pneumonia not related to Covid on March 27, 2021.

A Celebration of Don's Life will be held on Friday, April 30th at 5:30 PM at Riverside Country Club. Daniel Naranjo will officiate.

Don was born to A. Lloyd David and Lois Goddard David on November 20, 1935 in Melrose, MA.

He was the fourth child and second son of six children born to this family. He grew up and was educated through high school in Reading, MA.

In junior high Don began a lifelong love affair with all things aeronautical.

While other boys were playing ball, Don sat, in what had been the coal bin, of their family home, building airplanes out of balsa wood. He graduated from high school in 1953, and to no one's surprise he joined the Air Force. The Air Force taught Don to be an instructor in helicopter mechanics. He was always a little embarrassed to tell people that he spent his tour of duty during the Korean conflict stationed in Bermuda. It took a little bit of talking to convince him that he served his country doing what the Air Force wanted him to do; and just because he wasn't shot at in some cold muddy trench, he was still entitled to go on the Veterans flight to Washington D.C.

After his service Don began to study Aeronautical Engineering at Boston University. While there he met and married Judie Wright, a nursing student.

The marriage did not endure.

Don worked full time, first at AVCO then at Polaroid, in the meantime

completing his degree by attending class at night. It is quite an accomplishment to have persevered for sixteen years working full time, and taking one class a semester to get that degree.

Don and Margaret (Margi) were married in August 1981 and moved to Grand Island to join Hornady Manufacturing. Don was an accomplished engineer and became shortly Chief Engineer for Hornady. He excelled at organization; some of the systems he set up are still in use today.

Don retired from Hornady in 2000, but true to his first passion, he and his friend Don Terry built a 2/3 scale Baby Bell Helicopter. It flew! They tricked it out to look like a M. A. S. H. chopper and had great fun touring it around to various air shows. Don Terry was the more experienced pilot and after his death, Don donated the plane to the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles in Lexington where they display it in M. A. S. H. setting as in the TV show, complete with a still and a mannequin to look like Lt. Houlihan.

Don was known for his patriotism and service to community. He volunteered with the NE State Patrol Motorist Assist program to drive up and down a section of I-80 and help motorists in trouble. He enjoyed helping people but the service became obsolete as cell phones became ubiquitous and the State terminated the program.

He will be remembered for his kindness and generosity of spirit, as well as, a warm smile, cheerful disposition, sense of humor and terrible puns. Don couldn't tell a standard joke to save his soul, but fast as a flash he could make a pun out of nearly anything you said.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Lois and two siblings: Arthur, called Bud by the family, and Ann (David) Young. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Hornady-David, and children Scott David, wife Sheri; Kelley, husband Mark Szmyt; and Wendy as well as Margi's sons, Chris Steadman and Geoff Steadman, and five grandchildren: Meghan Szmyt Vestal, Casey Szmyt, Heather David, Kevin David and Sarah Steadman; and three siblings, Barbara (David) Rollins, Robert David (Jacquelyn Butz) and Betsy David.

Memorials are suggested to the Grand Island Area Habitat for Humanity or

The Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

APR **30**. 5:30 PM.

Riverside Country Club  
Grand Island, NE

# Tribute Wall



“ *Don Murray David*

---

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *My prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to you all. I enjoyed working with Don and of course discussing our may wood working projects. I am sorry I could not make it to the service but it was month-end and I was working. Don will be missed as he was a great guy.*

---

**Rick Sekora** - May 03, 2021 at 08:30 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Don Murray David.*



---

April 29, 2021 at 10:37 AM