



Donald J. Nealon

February 3, 1932 - January 3, 2015

Donald J. Nealon, Sr. 82 of St. Libory, died Saturday, January 3rd at CHI Health-St. Francis.

Mass of Christian burial will be 10:30 Friday, January 9th at the St. Libory's Catholic Church. Father Sidney B. Bruggeman will officiate.

To honor Mr. Nealon's wishes cremation has taken place.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday with a Rosary at 7 p.m. at All Faiths Funeral Home in Grand Island.

Mr. Nealon was born February 3, 1932 on a farm in Greeley County the son of Frank M. and Anna P. (Trella) Nealon.

Survivors include his wife, Leah; daughter, Deb Weber of Cairo; son and daughter-in-law, Donnie, Jr. and Debbie Nealon of Brownsville, Oregon; daughters, Marie Smith and Michelle Sorem both of Oregon; son, Scott Anderson of St. Libory and grandchildren, Brittany and Ashley Weber, Kimberly and Brad Archelta, D.J., III and Dawnita Nealon, Staci and Ben Barnes, Nic and Jamie Smith, Sharmin and Chad Welch, Dalton and Wyatt Anderson and Michael and Matthew Sorem.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael; son-in-law, Chuck Weber and sisters, Peg, Marylou, Patti, Betty and Jeannette.

Donald grew up in Greeley County attending school at O'Connor graduating in 1949. He served with the U.S. Navel Reserves from 1951-1954. In May of 1967 he married Leah (Nelson) Anderson.

Donald moved to Grand Island in 1956, working for Color Craft Tile Co., John

Priest Trucking as a truck mechanic, Lammert Transfer until opening his own shop on West HWY 30 in Grand Island. He then was shop foreman for GMC for several years. Donald then worked for many years for S&C Motors as shop foreman until suffering a heart attack which forced him into partial retirement in February 1993. Following retirement he worked part time for several years. Donald and Leah moved to a farm near St. Libory in 1977.

He joined the Hall County Sheriff's Posse in 1967, serving in several offices including board of operations. He was on the building and grounds committee helping plan the first indoor arena at the Saddle Club which was destroyed in 1980. He helped plan and build the present location.

He was a member of the Hall County Reserve Officers Association for several years; a 4-H leader for 21 years with the horse club; he raised, trained and competed with Appaloosa horses; raised and trained thoroughbred horses which he enjoyed very much; was a long time member of the American Quarter Horse Association and served as ride coordinator for trail rides across Nebraska. He was a member of the Nebraska Quarter Horse Association serving on the board for many years helping manage Quarter horse shows across Nebraska; a member of the Illinois Ridge Riders and rode for 38 years; he helped organize the Pine Ridge Riders riding with them for 20 years and South Dakota Rides for 5 years. Trail riding was a great love of Don's for many years. In 2007 he was appointed a member of the Howard County Tourism Committee.

In lieu of flowers a memorial fund will be established in memory of Don.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald J. Nealon*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Leah and Family,*

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Having known Don since a young child, I realize how much he will be missed by all. Remembering the horse shows as a child, I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to ride with him up at Fort Rob as of recent years. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I cherish the memories I have of Don throughout my lifetime. Joe Robertson

Joe Robertson - January 09, 2015 at 03:45 PM



“ *Leah and Family - We are very sorry for your loss. Our families have been friends for a very long time and we all have great memories of Don. Once my husband Don started going to the trail rides in Fort Rob as a Pine Ridge member he also got to know Don. I am sorry we cannot be there but know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Don & Sue (Wells) Vigil*

Sue Vigil - January 09, 2015 at 09:23 AM

HM

“ I am so sorry for your loss.

I am remembering how much fun I had seeing Don's horses, and if there were new ones in the pasture.

Don let me "befriend" one of his Appaloosas as my childhood horse/friend.

For that I am forever grateful.

Heather McConnon (Ziemba)

Heather McConnon - January 08, 2015 at 10:52 AM

GR

“ *Sympathy to all Don's family. Always enjoyed visiting w/ Don @ horse shows @ Posse Arena & at trail rides. He will be missed.*

Glenda & Stan Ruhter - January 07, 2015 at 05:13 PM

CN

“ *Deb, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your whole family during this difficult time. May God grant you peace beyond human understanding, with many wonderful memories to cherish.*
Carolyn and Chuck Newberry

Carolyn Newberry - January 07, 2015 at 07:49 AM

CY

“ Don

*You will truly be missed by us. You have been a good friend and neighbor to us for 30 years. You assisted our family in many ways-- with our two younger daughters in their 4H horse experience, in the wood you provided us with wood and snow removal, in helping us with managing our pasture.
we will dearly miss you
chuck and Yvonne*

chuck and Yvonne - January 06, 2015 at 11:09 AM

AC

“ Donnie, Debbie and families,

I am so sorry to read about Don passing away. Loved having him as our 4-H leader. It has been many years since I have seen him or you guys. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

With all of my love and sympathy.

Annette (Stenka) Colvin

Blu and Robyn Peterson and family

Terri Peterson and family

Annette (Stenka) Colvin - January 06, 2015 at 12:18 AM

JL

“ *My fondest memories of Don are always after the trail ride was over either sitting around the campfire or maybe just around a table. We usually had a beer in one hand and waited for the jokes to start flowing. Most of them were usually colorful and some of them we had heard before but they were still fun. My favorite ones include Harland and a Cat, the other had to do with three young ladies and the day after their wedding nobody could tell them the way Don could. If you haven't heard either of them you can ask me about them after a trail ride.*

Don my friend and trail buddy you are already missed.

Jeff Lewis

Jeff Lewis - January 05, 2015 at 01:53 PM