



Donald Dean Penner

August 21, 1933 - August 18, 2017

Donald Dean Penner, 83 of Grand Island died Friday, August 18, 2017 at CHI Health St. Francis.

Celebration of life service will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 6th at All Faiths Funeral Home. Reverend John Hayes will officiate. Burial will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the First Mennonite Cemetery at Beatrice, NE with the Reverend Arnold Rhodes officiating.

Donald was born on August 21, 1933 to parents, Paul and Ann (Epp) Penner. He was born at home on a farmstead east of Beatrice, attended Mennonite Academy, and graduated from Beatrice High School in 1951. Following graduation Don attended Bethel College, Newton, Kansas, for 2 years and then entered volunteer service in Pennsylvania where he met and married Janet Rhodes. They adopted two children, Jeffrey and Dianne.

Don farmed in Gage County for 25 years and was a Crete Carrier truck driver for 21 years before retirement. His community activities included Sicily township board President, Beatrice Mennonite Hospital board member, Southeast Nebraska Livestock Board, and the Gage County Ag Association. He was the Gage County Outstanding Farmer, the State of Nebraska Outstanding Soil Conservation Farmer and was a lifetime member of Nebraska Farmers Union.

He is survived by his wife Janet of 62 years; son, Jeff and wife Heather, of Hyannis, NE; daughter, Dianne of Etowah, NC; grandchildren, Joshua, Amanda, Kathleen (Justin) and Caleb; four great-grandchildren; brother, Gene (Pat) of Beatrice; sister, Leona of Lincoln; sister-in-law, Alfrieda of Indiana; brother-in-law, Arnold Rhodes; sister-in-law, Audrey (Samuel) Mahle; sister-in-law, Janice all of Pennsylvania and his four legged companion, Gracie. A special thank you to friend and neighbor Jeri McDonald for her care and support.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Ervin; brother-in-law, James; sister-in-law, Sharon and sister-in-law, Gloria and his four legged companion, Chipper.

He accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior many years ago and attended Grace Baptist Church in Grand Island.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations will be sent to The Child Saving Institute and The Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Dean Penner*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Dianne and Caleb - as you lay your father and grandfather to rest, we pray that you will find comfort in loving memories. All of us are holding you in our hearts.*

Pastor Joan Saniuk, MCC Sacred Journey, Hendersonville NC.

Rev Joan Saniuk - September 06, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ *It appears that Uncle Don was anxious to go see his brother, my dad, Ervin Penner, who left this earth on April 4th of this year in a very similar manner!!! I'm sure they've had a great reunion in heaven and my grandma and grandpa are thrilled to have 2 out of their 4 children back with them. Uncle Don always had a smile on his face and like all the Nebraska relatives, he enjoyed family parties and get-togethers!*

Katherine Ward

Katherine Ward - August 27, 2017 at 03:46 PM

AP

“ Don & a guy by the name of Reimer stopped in at our house on their way to Voluntary Service in Pennsylvania & I fed them supper. I had meatballs, and one that Don got was a little red inside and he wouldn't eat it!!! He and my husband, his brother, Ervin, always got along well together. I'm sure Ervin has had a blast showing him around heaven this last week!

Alfrieda Penner

Alfrieda Penner - August 27, 2017 at 03:38 PM