



Donald "Don" Fredrick Harms

August 17, 1929 - June 3, 2016

Donald "Don" Harms, 86, of Marble Rock, died Friday, June 3, 2016, at Hospice of North Iowa, surrounded by his family.

Don Harms was born August 17, 1929, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to William and Caroline (Bachman) Harms. He was baptized in the Lutheran faith, later joining the United Methodist Church in 1948. He graduated from Elma High School. Most of his years were spent on a farm near Marble Rock, where he lived for 66 years. He was actively engaged in farming, specializing in farrowing and finishing pigs. He was Floyd County Pork Producer of the year, and later, in 1974, was an Iowa Master Pork Producer. He, also, had served on the Floyd County Beef Producers Board and the F. H. A. Board. He retired from actively farming in 1981, but continued living on the farm.

On June 16, 1948, he was united in marriage to Betty Swant in the Methodist church at Marble Rock. To this union three children were born: Steven, and twins, Dennis and Donnice (Doni).

Don enjoyed most of all being with his immediate family. He liked nothing better than grilling hamburgers, steaks, making toasted cheese sandwiches for family and friends. He also liked dancing, especially to the Big Bands at The Surf and the Buddy Holly Tributes, traveling, exercising, playing cards, Sudoku, dining at The North Western Steakhouse, his cats and dogs, working in the yard, feeding, taking care of, and watching birds and just enjoying life.

Surviving is his wife, Betty. They would have celebrated their 68th anniversary on June 16th. Other surviving family members are their children, Steve (Louise) of Chicago, Illinois; Dennis (Randi) of Waco, Texas; and Doni Parker of Clear Lake. He is also survived by two grandsons, who have always been extra close in distance and heart, Jason (Karla, like a granddaughter) Parker of Clear Lake, with their children (great-grandchildren) Carson and Bella Parker; and James (Jim) Parker of Marble Rock, who spent a number of years caring for his grandparents. Other surviving grandchildren are Stefanie (Tyler) Martin of

China Spring, Texas, and their children (great-grandchildren) Tye, Macie and Koehler Martin; Heather (Josh) Clark of Flower Mound, Texas, and their children (great-grandchildren) Matthew, Lainey and Owen Clark, and grandson, Zachary Harms of Waco, Texas. When Don was ill, Stef and Heather spent time caring for him. Don is survived by one brother, David (Carol) Harms and a sister-in-law, Verna Harms, a special niece, Pam (Mike) Robson and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves "special" friends, Theresa and David Frank, Teresa Thomas and Family, Jean Harms, Chris, Shelle, Cody, Donald, Betty Staudt, Chris, Angela Marsh and family, his loving Hospice Family and numerous other friends, plus his "animal" friends, Trixie, Ginger, Misty and Lucky.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 5 sisters, 4 brothers and his in-laws, Cecil and Frances Swant,

No formal services are being planned. At his request his body will be cremated and a celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to North Iowa Hospice, whose staff, workers and volunteers have been so wonderful to Don. Their address is 232 Second Street SE, Mason City, Iowa 50401.

Fullerton Funeral Home, 123 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401, 641-423-8676
www.Fullertonfh.com [Facebook/Fullertonfuneralhomes](https://www.facebook.com/Fullertonfuneralhomes)

Comments



“ My condolences to Betty. Diane (Marsh) and I enjoyed visiting you folks back in the day.-bob nandell

Bob Nandell - July 11, 2016 at 07:22 AM



“ I only had the pleasure of meeting Don in person once. My mother and Betty had been friends since long before Don and Betty were married. I had the pleasure of bringing Mom (Marj Drahn) to a reunion with Betty and Don two years ago. What a wonderful day! Don was so gracious, funny, and welcoming! What I will never forget is the beautiful relationship and deep love between Don and Betty. That love impacted everyone around them so positively. Their marriage is a model of love and caring that we all should aspire to in all our relationships. Thank you for that day, the ongoing correspondence and the many years of friendship with my mother. Betty, you are in my prayers. May the blessings and great gift of your love with Don over so many years sustain you now. Cindy Dostal

Cindy Dostal - June 06, 2016 at 09:03 PM



“ What I cherish the most from these past few months is definitely our date night and how excited he was to share and watch some of his most favorite movies with me. I have also enjoyed all the memories and laughter we have shared and will greatly miss not seeing him on the farm as I return for future visits. I love you Grandpa Don and will miss you dearly!

Stefanie Martin - June 06, 2016 at 02:44 PM



“ I remember when Don & Betty were my Sunday School teachers. They were very good at the job.

Bonnie Schriever - June 04, 2016 at 06:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Angela Marsh - June 04, 2016 at 02:39 PM



“ This picture was taken when my family stopped for a visit. My son, Alex (Marsh) Leehan was about 3 yrs old.

Angela - June 04, 2016 at 02:44 PM



“ One of my earlier memories of Don Harms was when I was 5-7 yrs old, and we were bailing hay on our home place. I remember how much Don Harms and my Dad, Donovan Marsh, enjoyed teasing each other. I can still hear Don Harms' laughing as he teased my Dad. Every time I think of him, I can hear his laugh. He was always a joy and delight to be around.

Angela Marsh - June 04, 2016 at 02:35 PM