



Donald George Leidich

November 25, 1934 - February 14, 2014

Donald G. Leidich, 79, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2014 after braving an extended illness. Don was born November 25, 1934, in Allentown PA to Russel and Miriam Leidich. He met his forever sweetheart, Mary Keller, during his senior year of high school. One week after graduating from Lehigh University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he and Mary married. They recently celebrated 57 years together.

Don served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1959, during which time he and Mary welcomed their first daughter, Susan. He then was employed by US Steel for 22 years. While living in Pittsburgh, PA, Don and Mary greeted their second daughter, Cindy. In 1973, the family relocated to Newnan GA where Don owned and operated Don's Total Services, a heating, air, electrical and plumbing business. Don was an active member of the Newnan Elks Club, the Kiwanis Club, the First United Methodist Church and the Veatch Nixon Sunday School class. He and Mary have made such very good friends during all of their travels and relocations and enjoyed staying in touch with those at a distance and spending time with those close to home. Don loved talking with his friends over coffee, trips in his motor home, traveling to visit friends and spending time with his family. He was also an avid car buff and loved to drive. This included not only his motor home, but at one time or another, a school bus for Coweta County, his church's bus, and a golf cart for visitors at the hospital.

Don was a wonderful father who traveled the world to visit his daughters. He

was relied on to lend a hand during their numerous moves. Dad was the first call when there was a home repair need or a broken down car. He loved to figure things out, and then teach others how they worked. His grandchildren were very special to him, and he was so proud of all their accomplishments. Even though they are all scattered about, he always asked about each one and kept up with their busy lives.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Mary (Keller) of Newnan. His daughter Susan Markle, her husband Jeff, and their children Andrew and Kara live in Peachtree City, GA. Daughter Cindy Tomaro, her husband Joe, and their daughters, Kristen and Stephanie live in Pittsburgh, PA.

Visitation will be Wednesday, February 19, 5-7 p.m. at McKoon Funeral home in Newnan. A memorial service will be held Thursday, February 20 at 1 pm in the chapel at McKoon Funeral home. Those desiring may make contributions in Don Leidich's name to First United Methodist Church of Newnan.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com. McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 19. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

FEB 20. 1:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Tribute Wall

VH

“ Dear Mary, So sorry to hear of Don's passing. My prayer is that he died gently, and that you and the girls will be at peace with his passing. May the Almighty Comforter be with you during this time. Much love and prayers, Virginia

Virginia Harrison - February 20, 2014 at 08:30 AM

BA

“ Prayers and fond memories are what we have left to remember our loved ones. May the love of family and friends comfort you and you during this most difficult time, our most heartfelt condolences.

Betty and William Arthur - February 19, 2014 at 10:15 PM

CH

“ Mary, so sorry to hear about Don, he gave it a great fight, will always be thankful for him having confidence in me when I needed a job! God Bless! cliff.

cliff and aubee higbee - February 19, 2014 at 03:27 PM

DJ

“ Mary and Family, We are so very sorry to hear of Don's death. May the good Lord give you peace, love and unstanding during this difficult time. God loves you and we do too, Don and Mildred Jones

Don and Mildred Jones - February 19, 2014 at 02:39 PM

SK

“ Dear Mary, Susan & Cindy, Thearla & I send our sincerest sympathy for the loss of such a wonderful husband & father. Reading John McVey’s message brought back some wonderful memories of what a fun & unique man Don was. I still crack up remembering his stories about the kids on the school bus. Maybe now he’ll see the positive influence he made in at least one of their lives... perhaps even turning one of them to a better path. I did not know he was such a car fanatic. I’m sure he will have an incredible laugh watching me from heaven while I have to remove my entire front bumper just to change a burned out light bulb this weekend. I’m also sure he will have a few choice words for the designers of that car. With Love, Stephen & Thearla

Stephen & Thearla Kozy - February 19, 2014 at 01:24 PM

FE

“ Dear Mary, It has been my great pleasure to have Don in my life twice- once in Illinois and then again 23 years later here in newnan. He was the best of the best and I will miss him greatly.

Frank Ervin - February 18, 2014 at 08:28 PM

PD

“ Mary we are so sorry to hear Don had passed on, his body justcouldnt habdel all his troubles he was a great man and we are proud to have known him.

patsy/keith driver - February 18, 2014 at 04:18 PM

GP

“ Mary, We were so sorry to learn of Don's death. Please know that we are thinking and praying for you and your family. I have fond memories of Don when he would come and sit and talk to me when I was working there. He will be missed.

Gerrie and Ray Petty - February 18, 2014 at 02:21 PM

GW

“ Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Please accept our sincere condolences.

Geraldine and Bobby Welch - February 18, 2014 at 01:03 PM

TL

“ Mary, I'm so sorry to hear about Don. My prayers are with you and your family. I know God will see you through this. Love, Terrie

Terrie Levulis - February 18, 2014 at 08:49 AM

GM

“ Dear Mary & Family- You have our deepest sympathy. We are praying that God will comfort you at this with His Peace and keep you In His Care. All Our Love, The Menchan Family

Gloria & Raymond Menchan - February 18, 2014 at 03:57 AM

MG

“ Don will be greatly missed by all whom he came in contact with. He has such a sweet face that you could not help but to love him. May God bless Mary and family and let them know how much we also grieve for their loss.

Mr. & Mrs. J Gulick - February 17, 2014 at 06:35 PM

TO

“ Dear Mary, I'm very sorry to learn of Don's death and I extend my deepest sympathy to you and your family. As you know, we grew up living next door to each other in Catty, and I have many very fond memories of our childhood adventures together. I will always remember him as a great guy and am truly grateful that John McVey got me reconnected with him (and Jim Weaver) a few years ago.

Tom - February 17, 2014 at 05:07 PM

JW

“ Mary Ellen and I were deeply saddened to learn of Don's passing. I was truly blessed some years ago to be able to renew my friendship with Don and our mutual friend, John McVey, after many years of having flown under each other's radar so to speak. The three of us are from "Catty" which will have meaning for anyone familiar with the Lehigh Valley of eastern Pennsylvania. Reminiscing with Don about people (especially the more colorful ones), events, and peculiarities of Catasauqua, our hometown, was always great fun. His memory was fantastic. Don was a trusted advisor about all things automotive. Our 2006 Hyundai Azera, a great car, was a result of Don's suggestion. Although Don had a seemingly endless list of serious medical issues, his indomitable spirit and upbeat personality always prevailed. Our phone conversations and occasional reunions were a source of great pleasure and inspiration for both Mary Ellen and me. The world could use more people like Don Leidich! Jim Weaver, CHS 1951

Jim Weaver - February 17, 2014 at 04:47 PM

BP

“ Sue and Family, I just wanted to let you know I am keeping you in my prayers as you go through this time in your life. I have many wonderful memories from our high school days and will always cherish them. Beth

Beth Spradlin Pitts - February 17, 2014 at 01:36 PM

PW

“ Mary, I was so sorry to read about Don. I know his health had not been good for awhile. Please know that you and the family are in our thoughts & prayers. George & Peggy

Peggy Williams - February 17, 2014 at 11:05 AM

DN

“ *My sweet Mary...I am so sorry to hear about Don! Please feel the love that I'm passing on to you. I will be praying for your strength and courage particularly at this time. I love you! Dee*

Dee Nixon - February 17, 2014 at 10:30 AM

DO

“ *Sending sincere sympathy to you at this difficult time.*

Debbie Olmstead - February 16, 2014 at 09:38 PM

SM

“ *Mary, Susan & Cindy, We extend our deepest condolences. We know Don will be missed very much. May God's Holy Spirit comfort you in this difficult time. Love Scott, Sabrina & Kaitlyn*

Scott & Sabrina Markle - February 16, 2014 at 09:36 PM

JP

“ *A good person that helped so many. He will be missed.*

James Phillips - February 16, 2014 at 06:55 PM

JM

“ Mary, Susan and Cindy, You have our heartfelt sympathy over the loss of Don. He was one of my best friends as we grew up in Catasauqua, Pa., to where I moved when I was seven. Allow me me share some remembrances with you. I can recall sitting on the back steps of our house looking at our bicycles when we were about ten years old. We were discussing the differences in the brands - Don knew the brakes were different. My bike had New Departures and his were some thing else. He said, "Let's take them apart and see how they work". So we got some tools, took them apart, and figured out how they both operated, and put them back together. That's when I knew Don would be an engineer. His dad, Russel, worked at Mack truck and tools were everywhere. I was a year older than Don and when I turned sixteen, I gathered my savings and paid \$95.00 for a 1932 Dodge. We took that car completely apart that summer. We put new piston rings in it (the fellow in Bethlehem where we finally found replacement rings said, "Good grief, that car is old enough to vote"), put a louder muffler on it, and put it back together again and it worked perfectly - except that the oil gauge did not work. We had a ball with that car for a couple of years. Then I sold it for \$98.00. Don was always a car fanatic. One day while in high school he had his Dad's 1946 Pontiac and we were driving around town when Don said, "I'll bet we can drive home without my stepping on the gas". We were down by the river and had to climb the hills. I doubted him. So we spent the next ten minutes taking back streets toward his house at a rate of one mph. When we got to Second St., a cop pulled us over. "What's the matter?", the cop asked. Don responded, "We're looking for house numbers." I thought that was a pretty good answer. "What number", asked the cop. Don answered, "1234 Second St." Good grief, I thought to myself, you can do better than that. The cop said, "It is just ahead on the right". Then he left us. I asked where he got that piece of data - after all, we were not looking for house numbers. Don said, It's Louie Mullner's address - if you lived at 1234 any street, you'd know it. After that encounter, I always regarded Don as a genius. We commuted to Lehigh University together, again, Don being one year behind me. So it was Don, Jim Weaver and I making the

seven-mile commute together almost every day. We would take a lunch and eat together at Drown Hall. We were all top students and enjoyed each other's company, but knew that this would last for only a short period of time. I returned for a year of grad school and Don, as a senior, then mentioned that he had received an offer from U. S. Steel. He would have to drive to Donora, Pa. for an interview. He asked if I would go with him. I said, "Sure", so we visited downtown Pittsburg, stayed the night in a hotel, then drove the next day south on the Allegheny to Donora. He went for the interview and I explored the depressed area of Donora. After the interview, I asked him how it went. He said, "Everybody there was older than 50 - they need me". It was then that I realized that our very close relationship soon would be coming to an end. Don was married to Mary as soon as he graduated - I was his best man. After that, he went his way and I went mine. Indeed, I can recall only one time that we met during the ensuing 40 years. Don had to make a stop at Bradley Feld, Hartford's airport, and he met us at our home in Glastonbury. All I can remember was that when he rang the doorbell, I had a huge wrench in my hand and he wanted to know what I was going to do with that. Then, after we retired, thanks to Don and Mary and their very large van, we got back together again - both here in the White Mountains and down in Newnan, GA and in Florida. It is difficult for me to know that our relationship has had this ending. And I am sure that it is much, much more difficult for you, Mary, and for Susan and Cindy. Don was a good man. We will all miss him.

John McVey - February 16, 2014 at 06:30 PM

JK

“*Aunt Mary, Susan and Cindy So sorry to hear about Uncle Don. Keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Mary, Judy, Stan and family*

Judy Krutsick - February 16, 2014 at 12:20 PM