



Donald L. Richardson

December 23, 1939 - March 20, 2015

Donald L. Richardson passed away March 20, 2015 after a year of failing health. He was born December 23, 1939 to George Lee and Ruby Inez Varvel Richardson in Morrill, Nebraska. He was the youngest of four children. His siblings were Robert Richardson, Shirley Morehead and Delores Meyer-Watson (all deceased).

As a young child Don lived in many locations while the family followed his father from job to job as an asphalt superintendent with Peter Kiewit Sons. The family settled more permanently in Fort Collins in the 1950s, and he attended Lincoln Junior High and Fort Collins High School. At Fort Collins High School he participated in a variety of activities. He was in some plays, concert band and orchestra and also head cheerleader his senior year. It was in his freshman year he invited Marilyn Henke to the Homecoming Dance. They were married in 1959 and have been dancing together ever since.

Don went on to CSU and received a B.S. in Business Administration and then worked for Phillips Petroleum and Hughes Men's Wear. Don returned to CSU and received his teaching certificate. At age 30 he starting teaching Distributive Education in Longmont, CO, and then obtained a M.S. in Vocational Education. Another five years went by and he became a faculty member in Vocational Education at CSU. He received a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from The University of Colorado and served as

Acting Department Head in Vocational Education at CSU.

After CSU he became Director of Denver Technical College in Denver, later becoming Executive Director of the Colorado State Council on Vocational Education. He then worked with three businessmen to obtain a grant from the Department of Energy (1 million in cash and 30 million in surplus manufacturing equipment from the former Rocky Flats Plant). Together they created the Rocky Mountain Manufacturing Academy for the Colorado Community College System at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. He retired as Director in 1999.

Along the way he found time to be a husband, friend, father, Sunday School teacher, Cub Scout Master and President of Colorado Vocational Association and other organizations related to Education. In retirement he worked as a bank teller as well as volunteering at the First United Methodist Church as Financial Secretary.

Don is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marilyn; sons, Timothy (Rene) and Donald; daughters, Becky Bell (Stewart) and Amy Arnott (Brian); eight grandchildren, Jenny, Bryant and Mallory Bell; Holli, Trevor and Megan Richardson; Christopher and Bridget Arnott; great grandchildren, Wesley Cordova, Dallas, and Calisse Luvane. He is survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews and extended family.

Don sometimes liked to do random acts of kindness, and we hope in remembrance of him you will too.

A Memorial Service will be held at First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Interment will be at a later date at Grandview Cemetery. Reverend David Dalke will officiate the service.

Memorial contributions can be made to First United Methodist Church in care

of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

1900 W. Mountain Ave.
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 26. 1:00 PM (MT)

First United Methodist Church
1005 Stover St.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

JV

“ Dear Marilyn and family,
My sincere sympathy to all of you. What a wonderful person Don was. I first met Don when he came to Fort Collins and attended Washington Elementary School. From there it was onto Junior High and High School. I am sure many people were touched by his friendship and warm personality. In school, he was always so kind and friendly to everyone. He had a magnetic personality. Everyone was fond of him.
When he worked at Hughes Men's store, my mother would always want Don to wait on her, to pick out a tie that my husband would like.
He will be missed, but I am sure all of us are better for knowing him and how he touch our lives.
Thoughts and prayers are with you.
Jane Goodman Viers

Jane Goodman Viers - March 27, 2015 at 04:55 PM

KT

“ Dear Marilyn,
You and Don were always such a special couple! You made all of us smile.
Your loss is huge. I hope the good memories mend the pain of your loss in
good time.
I am praying for you and your family.
Kay Moffitt Tamblyn

Katherine Tamblyn - March 27, 2015 at 12:09 PM

CA

“ Dear Marilyn and all Richardson family members,
What fond memories I have of Don, from working out cheer leading moves in high school, to watching Don's achievements and honors with Vocational Education, to appreciating Don and Marilyn's kids as they braved the classes I taught at our good ole Fort Collins High School, to times he jumped in when we needed an extra bridge player at the gal's bridge group, to all his great leadership in getting class reunions organized, to times he struggled with recovery from surgeries and other medical issues, braving them with amazing positive attitudes.

I love the photo for his obituary. This is the Don I remember, handsome with an engaging smile.

Blessings to all family members. You watched Don's suffering and cared for and comforted him to the last days. Now may you celebrate a wondrous person and his productive life and relish in and carry forever memories.

Carol Michie Alford

Carol Alford - March 26, 2015 at 06:05 PM

SH

“ Dear Marilyn, We are so sorry to learn about Don. The picture of him on this page is how I'll always remember him, only a little older. The smile! Don was such an up-beat, fun person to be around. You are as well. I picture your family life as happy, filled with love and laughter, goal-oriented, closely knit, full of friends, fun.

I, too, remember his cheerleading days. So full of life and spirit. He was perfect for that role. He was a friend to all and people were drawn to him because of his wonderful sense of humor and because he treated everyone with respect.

You and your family are in my prayers, Marilyn. God just received into his care someone special. May God comfort you and give you peace.

Lovingly, Bill and Sally Hix

Sally Hix - March 26, 2015 at 04:18 PM

CA

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

Chuck & Kathy Ahlbrandt - March 26, 2015 at 10:04 AM

MF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time.

Munds Family - March 25, 2015 at 08:36 PM

BJ

“ Dear Marilyn and family Can it be that a lifetime has passed so quickly? Don will always be one of the wonderful memories from our days at FCHS. Always up for a joke or prank, forever laughing, his high spirits brought joy to all. God bless you and comfort you in your time of sorrow. Don is one of a kind and remains forever young in all of hearts. Beth Aanes Joyner

Beth Joyner - March 25, 2015 at 07:34 PM

DB

“ Remember the great smile and bouncy, happy spirit. Lots of fun in school.

Dave & Margie (Manweller) Barkey - March 25, 2015 at 07:05 PM

JH

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was a special person and did so enjoy getting to know him while working on the class reunion back a few years ago. Marilyn he loved you so much. Judi Holter Horning

Judi Horning - March 25, 2015 at 05:37 PM

JF

“ Don had such a beaming presence- I can still remember the crackle and joy in his voice as he gave all he had to cheering everyone on to a Victory of some kind or another. He really knew how to work the crowd with a megaphone or cupped hands and a yell you could hear all over the crowd. He really cared about others as he jumped up in the air and delivered what ever cheer and pose to catch the eye to get people up on their feet and following The Victory of our team !

Don and Marilyn were hot sparks on the dance floor. They could really shake it all around and out do everyone on the dance floor. Marilyn was always so delighted to be a part of their act with her crisp cranberry bright laughter and smile. They were a perfect team and very driven by the spark of music and their great swing and foot work. Move over Fred Astaire and Ginger Rodgers - Don and Marilyn were coming through !!! Life at Fort Collins High would never been the same without them !!! They were very interactive fellows of the 50's !!!

Jim Foster- The Tin Man - and The Dreamiest !!! (Because I dreamed a lot !)

Jim Foster - March 25, 2015 at 10:22 AM

BA

“ It is difficult tot realize that my lifelong friend has passed. Don and I have known each other for 62 years, beginning when we were Freshmen at Fort Collins High School in 1953. We became fast friends and confidants that lasted all of our lives. Don was so energetic, the cheerleader, and social event planner. We have shared so many memories and happenings that fill a lifetime of memories. I will miss him very much. He and Marilyn have been part of my life since that time, and I will cherish all of the memories we made and good times we had. You are now free, Don, from your pain and suffering over the last year, and I will remember all we shared forever. Goodbye my wonderful friend. To the Richardson Family, I am so sorry for your loss.....but know that life goes on and healing will take place.....
Lovingly,
Bob Asmus

Bob Asmus - March 24, 2015 at 08:16 PM

SW

“ Dear family,
Today March 24th would have been my 59th wedding anniversary. I was thinking about Fort Collins and friends in the class of 1957 and my high school memories and then got the news about Don. I am so sorry. I can still see Don cheerleading. He made my high school days happier and seeing him at the 1957 class reunions with his good wife Marilyn always meant so much to me. He will be missed. You are in my prayers.
Sylvia Thompson Vigil Wacknitz

Sylvia Wacknitz - March 24, 2015 at 08:03 PM