



Donald Ray Woodlan

August 9, 1946 - October 9, 2021

Donald “Don” Woodlan was born on August 9th 1946 in Painesville, Ohio, to Donald and June (Ward) Woodlan. Don remained in Painesville throughout his childhood along with his 2 brothers Larry and Jim. He attended Riverside High School where he was a true all-American boy. Don was an excellent student, halfback on the varsity football team, 3rd baseman on the baseball team, Key Club President, All-State competitor, and Senior Class President. High school is also where he met the love of his life, Judith Zuber.

Don was the first graduate of Riverside High School to be appointed to the United States Naval Academy. Attending the Naval Academy was a great honor and challenge and, although they spent very little time together, his heart remained true to Judy. Don and Judy were married on December 28, 1967. He graduated in 1968 with a degree in electrical engineering and went on to serve in the Navy for 7 years where he spent the first year earning a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Michigan State and then served on the naval submarines USS Jack and the USS Sam Rayburn. Don was honorably discharged in 1975 as a Naval Lieutenant.

Don and Judy had many adventures while in the Navy and lived throughout New England and California, giving birth to 2 children along the way. After the Navy, Don went on to work for Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Perry, Ohio. He worked there for 4 years before being hired by Texas Utilities and moving his

family to DeSoto, Texas, in 1979. Don retired in 2014 taking great pride in the work he accomplished securing and maintaining the operating license for Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, but his true passion in life was his family.

Don could not have been more committed to his family. He was his family's biggest fan and never missed an activity his children and grandchildren were involved in, where he was often seen behind a video camera capturing it all on film. He had an incredible bond with all his loved ones and will be greatly missed every day.

Don was diagnosed with cancer in 2019 and battled the disease with every ounce of his being. At 5:35am on October 9, 2021, surrounded by his loving wife, daughter, and son, he passed out of this world to join his parents and younger brother Jim in heaven.

Don is survived by his wife Judith (Zuber) Woodlan, brother Larry Woodlan and wife Ellen of Fountain Hills, AZ., daughter Melissa Smith and son-in law Gene Smith and their 2 children Tyler and Katy of Cedar Hill, TX, son Donald Woodlan and daughter-in-law Stacia Woodlan and their 2 children Michael Raeshide and McKenna Woodlan of Midlothian, TX.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to Family Musical Theatre (www.familymusictheatre.com), an organization that Don supported for many years, or give the gift of life by donating blood and platelets to your local blood bank.

Family will receive friends from 10:00am to 12:00pm on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at Byrum Funeral Home Chapel with a celebration of Don's life beginning at 12:00pm also in Byrum Chapel. Interment will follow at 2:30pm at DFW National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



October 26, 2021 at 02:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



October 25, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Our condolences to Don's family. I had the privilege of working with Don for over 30 years. He was a consummate professional: knowledgeable, logical, articulate, and fair to all. And most of all, he was dedicated to his family. A man of integrity who will be missed.*

Fred Madden

Fred Madden - October 25, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



October 25, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



October 24, 2021 at 01:17 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



October 20, 2021 at 01:22 PM



“ *Bob and Ann Dacko purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



Bob and Ann Dacko - October 19, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



October 19, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ Tommy & Frankie Smith and Nancy Lewis purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



Tommy & Frankie Smith and Nancy Lewis - October 18, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



October 14, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ The GIFCA Board & Your FMT Family purchased the Majestic Heart for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



The GIFCA Board & Your FMT Family - October 14, 2021 at 11:27 AM

DK

“ *Dean Knight sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald Ray Woodlan*



Dean Knight - October 12, 2021 at 02:09 PM

DK

What a fascinating life Don led! And his dedication to family was a shining example to us all. Thank you for the wonderful write-up.

I will donate to Don's favorite theater company in his name.

Dean Knight - October 12, 2021 at 02:11 PM

ME

Thank you, Dean! I appreciate all of the support during this time!

Melissa - October 12, 2021 at 04:11 PM

BD

Dear Judy and family please accept our condolences, thoughts, prayers, and support. We are grateful to have been able to see Don before he passed. I have had the honor to know Don at work and he left an amazing lasting impression on me. He will be missed. May he rest in peace with our Lord.

Bob and Ann Dacko

Bob and Ann Dacko - October 19, 2021 at 03:27 PM

RW

“ *Roger and Ruth Walker purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.*



Roger and Ruth Walker - October 12, 2021 at 12:57 PM

RW

“ *My condolences to Don's family. He was my definition of a gentleman. Working with him for seventeen years I can say I never heard him swear or raise his voice in anger. He treated everyone with dignity and fairness.*

Roger Walker

ROGER D. WALKER - October 12, 2021 at 12:46 PM

JP

“ DON WOODLAN UPDATE:

I met Woody Plebe year when he was 17 and we were roommates in the Class of '68 at the United States Naval Academy. He quickly distinguished himself on the athletic field, as a scholar and even for his artistic ability. His memory was close to eidetic. He could scan a complicated lesson in differential equations in a few minutes.

Because of his superior abilities he completed his academic requirements earlier than the rest of us. Because we were in the Cold War advisors suggested he learn Russian. He mastered the difficult alphabet shortly and went on to be one of the top graduates in our class, taking difficult courses.

We roomed again after that. He was always there for me and his classmates.

He was in Nuclear subs and was a high ranking influence in the nuclear power infrastructure in TX after he separated.

My heart is broken to think of losing this dear friend.

“Smell the sea and feel the sky, let your soul and spirit fly into the Mystic.”

God speed Woody.

(L-R...me, Woody, Fred Muniz, Mike Danesi)

Go Navy 🇺🇸



Jefferson Prestridge - October 12, 2021 at 08:51 AM

TB

“ I met Don soon after beginning work at Comanche Peak in 1988. Even when we disagreed he was always a gentleman. He was a great person to work with. Problems usually arose outside of normal hours. I was always relieved to see Don had the duty. I didn't always get the answer I wanted, but I felt like I got the right answer. Don was missed when he left. He will be missed even more now.

Tim Bennett - October 11, 2021 at 07:46 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



October 11, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



October 11, 2021 at 05:08 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Woodlan.



October 11, 2021 at 05:07 PM