



Donald D. Charles

September 11, 1936 - January 15, 2024

Donald Douglas Charles, age 87 active and energetic, was called home by his Lord on January 15, 2024, after an unexpected brief illness.

Donald is lovingly survived in cherished memory by his precious wife of 54 years Karen Charles (nee McKenzie). They exchanged marital vows on September 27, 1969, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Clawson, MI. A resident of Shelby Township, MI for over 43 years.

Born September 11, 1936, to parents James Riley Charles and Florence Ella Anna Charles (nee Schaefer) in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Dearest family surviving Don are brother Lester Charles celebrating 100 yrs. of age May 2024, sister-in-law Marlene Nock, together with several generations of nieces and nephews. Don leaves behind a lifelong intimate circle of family friendships.

Preceding Don in passing are treasured parents James and Florence, dear sisters Shirley Krebiehl (dec. Peter) and Sandy Swann (dec. Ken), sister-in-law Betts Charles, brother-in-law Earl Nock and beloved father-in-law and mother-in-law Elmer and Hazel McKenzie. Always loved and missed, Don and Karen's Sheltie mix of 13 yrs., Nikki.

He retired from a 50-year career in precision industrial machine tooling, such as jig and boring mills. Don began his career with the renowned precision tool company DeVlieg Machine in Royal Oak for 36 years until an outstate merger. He traveled across the USA for DeVlieg setting up new machinery to precise accuracy limits and was the professional DeVlieg clients sought most often for installation and troubleshooting. Member of the DeVlieg Retiree Club. He completed his professional career with Balance Engineering in Troy. A DeVlieg jig mill is proudly exhibited at Greenfield Village Museum's Hall of Fame Tools.

Don's precision abilities extended beyond his career. In hobby, he was a master craftsman woodworker of furniture and wood accessories. If his Karen dreamed it, Don would design and create it to his great joy to please her. His Dad a talented woodworker began his son in the craft as a boy. Don, always wanting to be busy, never to sit idle, was Mr. Fix-it of all repairs, push mowed his lawn, trimmed shrubs, and would drive anywhere or distance for any chore, especially to Home Depot and Menard's...his hangouts.

Don and his Karen both loved to golf; traveled winters to Florida and South Carolina for 15 years having a ball meeting other snowbirds who became great friends. Don was a lifelong member of weekly golf leagues. Practice makes perfect; he shot his best games just above par in his spry 80s and his very best this last season, 2023. Trips to Las Vegas with his Karen, whom he lovingly nicknamed his "Little Charlie" and with friends brought Don no fortunes except those of great fun and memories. Their Northern Michigan cottage of many decades was a regular adventure of snowmobiling, sitting by the fireplace, playing cards, golfing, bonfires, and Bar-B-Q with family and friends.

Don's characteristic qualities of his love, devotion, kindheartedness, integrity, sphere of talents, fun sense of humor, and personable charms will be

remembered and missed forever by his wife and beloved as he rests and lives eternally in the Light and Love of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Don's wishes for cremation are in the care of the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home in Utica, MI. A Christian memorial service with interment of cremations will be at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, MI will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 2pm.

In lieu of flowers, a free-will gift to charity of your choice in Don's memory is graciously appreciated.

Previous Events

Burial of Cremated Remains

SEP **18.** 2:00 PM (ET)

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery
621 W. Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Tribute Wall

RC

“ I will miss seeing Don every Wednesday at golf, he was a great guy.



Ralph Cihone - March 07, 2024 at 08:16 AM

JA

“ On behalf of the SJH Golf League please accept our deepest condolences. Don was an awesome member of our golf league for over 30 years. Don always had kind words to say and a smile. I have been very fortunate to golf with Don over the years, including our last around of the year this October, very memorable since we played as a six-some. A great guy. Don will be truly missed.

Jeff Arce - February 20, 2024 at 04:29 PM

SO

“Don has meant the world to me for 44 years, along with his Karen. The two are my forever best friends, they are family. When friendships are meant to be a lifelong blessed gift from God such as ours, a difference in our ages was blind to our hearts. Don always called me, “The Kid”, and I will greatly miss his warm greeting calling out my nickname upon every welcomed visit. I addressed him, “Duck”, a witticism to his first name, Donald.



Don's natural attributes were work hard, decency, love kindly...be a man: respect and protect women as they are gentle gifts; honor your wife, family, friends, yourself, God and country. He had a big heart of empathy and generosity, gave anyone in need of help a hand-up without judgement and offered his time or resources without hesitation. He was a sweet and thoughtful person to those he cared most about, especially his “Little Charlie”, his dearest wife of 54 years, Karen. And to know Don, you knew fun and laughter. He was quite the character in his own right! He laughed easily, wore a distinctly happy smile, loved a joke, camaraderie, friendly group discussion, entertaining in his home or on the patio at the BBQ. He and Karen were the perfect duo hosting a sure-fire daytime or evening of big laughs and fun, fun, fun. My parents too gravitated to Don's and his Karen's hilarious charms and are wonderful family friends of my Mom to this day.

Duck, taught me handy tricks of woodworking, furnished me with his first set of golf clubs in a patient attempt to teach myself that golf is on the course versus in the woods, gave me their Ski-Doo Nordic (the Hog) to ride at their cottage and in Los Vegas safeguarded this “Kid” at the one-armed-bandit. So many things that Duck did for me and gave me are too numerous to count; yet, his loving friendship he freely offered is the most immeasurable keepsake. I look with surrealism at Duck's picture today with a tear, with a smile, recalling our shared escapades in grateful memory and know too, Duck's absence here is now his well-earned glorious eternal life of Light

with his Lord in Heaven.

To my best forever friend, Karen, I see the painful ache of your broken heart losing your Donald, your treasured one-and-only lifelong love as an unbearable separation; fear not, your two souls and heart remain tethered as One forever and ever as witnessed, blessed and by covenant of your Lord the day you both said, "I do!" Your God and your Donald are with you always, both have promised.

Sheryl O'Donnell - February 12, 2024 at 01:04 PM

PS

“ A lifelong friend of my parents. Don you were a kind and easy going man. I enjoyed the summer BBQ's and chatting with you and Karen. Rest in peace and know that you will be missed. Prayers for your dear wife Karen. May she cherish all your memories to help comfort her through this difficult time.

Paula Sulewski - February 04, 2024 at 07:20 PM

CC

“ Don, my go-go “Energizer Bunny” friend; I’ll always remember Don telling his Karen how beautiful she was with a big prideful loving smile on his face while they both attended my daughter’s wedding in 1999. Sadly, these covid years interrupted our regular amusing gatherings as friends. I have really missed you both, you are always so kind and tons of fun to be with throughout our many years of friendship with my Bill and I. God bless you my friend Donald in you Savior’s Heaven. Karen, my heart deeply grieves along with you. I pray daily for the healing of your body, mind, spirit and that our Lord who shares your broken heartedness will in time bring peace and comfort in His promises to never forsake you. With my love to you both, Carol Cauley.



Carol Cauley - February 02, 2024 at 12:55 PM

RK

“ A friend that will be dearly miss.
Enjoyed the summer and holidays spent with Karen and Don.



Rita Kulawik - January 30, 2024 at 03:59 PM

SB

“ Suzanne Bastien sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald D. Charles



Suzanne Bastien - January 26, 2024 at 05:30 PM

SO

“ Sheryl O'Donnell sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald D. Charles



Sheryl O'Donnell - January 26, 2024 at 08:42 AM

SO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sheryl O'Donnell - January 26, 2024 at 08:40 AM

SO

Don and Karen toasting to their 54th anniversary Sept. 27, 2023 at favorite restaurant The Master's. So happy and healthy and in love.

sheryl O'Donnell - January 26, 2024 at 08:49 AM

PV

Don and Dick shared a good friendship/always willing to help.we will miss him who will go to Vegas with us.

Penny Vien - January 31, 2024 at 12:25 PM