



Donald R. "Don" Wittwer

September 16, 1930 - January 2, 2021

Donald R. "Don" Wittwer, 90, of Wapakoneta, died 2:25 a.m., Sat., Jan. 2, 2021, at Shawnee Manor. He was born Sept. 16, 1930, in Berne, Indiana, the son of Hiram and Ruth (Schug) Wittwer, who preceded him in death. On May 7, 1950, he married Rebecca (Nussbaum) Wittwer, and she preceded him in death on Aug. 30, 2000. Then on July 9, 2005, he married Mary Ann (Metzger Mahoney) Wittwer, and she preceded him in death on Sept. 24, 2018.

Survivors include, 4 children, Anita (James) Penhorwood, Lima, Ohio, Dean (Patricia) Wittwer, Aiken, SC, Donna (Jan Castanza) Wittwer, The Villages, FL, Michael (Maria) Wittwer, Malvern, Ohio, and foster daughter, Ann Bruning of Toledo, Ohio. Other survivors include stepchildren, Diana Blackburn, Wapakoneta, Debra Hume, Wapakoneta, Kathleen (Daniel) Umphress, Yardley, PA, Gregory (Tammy) Mahoney, Wapakoneta, and Jeffrey (Emilia) Mahoney, Gahanna, Ohio. His six grandchildren include Aaron (Laura) Penhorwood, Chad (Kara) Penhorwood, Thomas (Lisa) Wittwer, Katie (Jake) Wittwer Gambrell, Adam (Sarah) Wittwer, and Jenna Wittwer. Don had numerous great grand children and two foster sisters, Sonja (Terry) Craig, Mosheim, TN and Linda (Roger) Call, Monroe, IN.

In addition to his parents and wives, Rebecca & Mary Ann, he was preceded in death by a brother, T. Wayne Wittwer, and foster brothers, Rene Brandt, and Dale Brandt, and a foster sister, Alvina Brandt.

Don was as a 1948 graduate of the Monroe High School, IN, and a 1949 graduate of the International Business College, Ft. Wayne, IN. He moved to Wapakoneta in 1952, and retired in 1995 as treasurer and assistant manager from Mercer Landmark. Don was truly a man dedicated to service to the Wapakoneta area community. He served 17 years as a Wapakoneta city councilman and then served as mayor of Wapakoneta from 1991 until 2007. Don also served on the Auglaize Co. District Solid Waste Management Board, the Civil Service Commission, and was a past member of the Auglaize Co. and State of Ohio Mayors' Assn. Don was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Wapakoneta, where he served as a lay leader and chairman of the Administrative Board. He was a member and past president of the Wapakoneta Lions Club, where he had 56 years of perfect attendance. He received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award from the Lions Club International, and served as district governor of the Lions Club, International. He was a 53 year member of the Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce and served as president in 1966. Don was a charter member of the Neil Armstrong Airport Authority, and served as co-chairman of the Neil Armstrong Homecoming Committee. His other memberships included the former Wapakoneta Elks, the Wapakoneta Eagles, the Wapakoneta Dad's Club, the Auglaize Co. Historical Society, and a social member of the Wapakoneta V.F.W.

Due to Covid 19 health concerns, private family funeral services will be held at the Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, Wapakoneta, with Pastor Josh Tissot officiating. A private burial service is to follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta. A public celebration of Don's life is planned for later this year.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church of Wapakoneta and The Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road
Wapakoneta, OH

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We so enjoyed knowing Don. He would always chat with us as we walked around the block and at church. We valued his friendship.

Doug and Lois Clark - January 22, 2021 at 08:50 PM

RB

“ I wanted to send my condolences to the entire family. I have known Don since we went to International College in Ft. Wayne and have been friends ever since. We both worked for Farm Bureau so we have kept in touch with each other. I knew Becky very well and I have known the children, but not so much the grandchildren and great grandchildren. Don kept me posted on what they were doing so it seems that I know them. Don was always involved in a lot of things which kept him very busy. He was a great person to know and converse with. My sympathy goes out to the entire family.

Dick and Mary Lou Brautigam

Richard D Brautigam - January 07, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JS

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to PDG Don's family in regard to his passing. Lion Don was a good and faithful Lion who not only served well, but also served as a good role model for many other Lions. He will be greatly missed by our association.

PID Jerry Smith and PDG Judy Smith

Jerry Smith - January 07, 2021 at 02:21 PM

DT

“ Deepest Condolences to the Don Wittwer family. So sorry to hear of your loss. God Bless him and may he Rest In Peace.

Dan Taylor - January 05, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald R. "Don" Wittwer.



January 05, 2021 at 02:30 PM

BC

“ To the family of Don Wittwer,

Billie and I would like to share our deepest sympathy for the loss of your father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Don never knew a stranger as he journeyed through life. As a member of the county mayor's association, Don wanted all of us to participate. He would say no matter how small our villages were, we all had the same problems.

Rest in peace my friend.

Bob & Billie Conner - January 04, 2021 at 07:07 PM

AP

Thank you Bob. He always talked about you and glad we got a chance to know you. He is at peace

Anita Penhorwood - January 04, 2021 at 10:06 PM

TB

“ I want to express our sincere sympathy on the passing of my long time friend,.we have had so many long time memories with Don and his family...Pat and I have shared so many memories with the entire family.

I have been a very long time friend with Don and together we traveled so many miles together in our travels in Lionism. We have ventured the state of Ohio and many other places in the country for Lions work over so many years. .Don and I have remained friends and shared so much together.

May the many memories we have had together always be remembered.

May God be with Don's entire family during these sad times.

Thank you all for allowing us to be great friends for so long.

Tom & Pat Bodell

Tom Bodell - January 03, 2021 at 11:15 AM

AP

Thank you Tom for this. I remember the many adventures you all had. He talked about you a lot. Thank you for your friendship. We know he is in a better place.

Anita Penhorwood - January 03, 2021 at 12:28 PM

JW

The Wapakoneta Lions Club expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of PDG Don. He truly represented the meaning of Lionism during his over 50 years of membership in our Club. We will remember always his statement of IT'S GREAT TO BE A LION. Lion President Jim "Wackie" Wachauf

James Wachauf - January 04, 2021 at 09:29 AM

MS

Don was our neighbor and good friend for nearly 40 years. You will look far to find a man of greater dignity and integrity. We had many good visits at The Gardens in recent years. He always seemed so happy to be on his way to Lions Club meetings with me. He was very kind to our children, Lindsey and Kendra as they were growing up. Rest well friend!
Mark and Cheryl Short

mark Short - January 04, 2021 at 10:06 AM

AP

Thank you Jim and Mark. He loved his Lions Club and Wapak

Anita Penhorwood - January 04, 2021 at 12:35 PM

KH

I want to express my sincere sympathy to the family on the passing of Don. I have many memories of Don as my brother-in-law. He would call me often to chat. My heart goes out to Dean and Pat, Anita and Jim, Donna and Jan, and Michael and Maria. Your dear Father will be missed. Sending love and prayers.

Karen Hart

Karen Hart - January 04, 2021 at 12:45 PM