

Donald E. Green

July 15, 1942 - January 31, 2021

Donald E. Green, age 78, of Kankakee passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Don was born July 15, 1942 in Kankakee, the second of three sons of Joseph L. & Margaret (Andrews) Green. He married Kay McMullen on July 3, 1965. They had two children: Susan and Steven. Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother and sister-in-law, David & Donna (Skinner) Green. Don attended Kankakee public schools, graduating from Kankakee High School in 1960 where he was all conference center on the football team and active on the student council. In fact, it was while decorating for a high school dance that he met his future wife, Kay. After high school graduation, Don enrolled at Illinois State University, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in business and a minor in political science. Following his graduation from ISU, Don returned to Kankakee to enter the insurance business that was started by his grandfather, Fred "Brick" Andrews, and continued by his father, Joseph L. Green and his uncle Howard Andrews. That agency later merged with the Malmer agency to become Malmer, Andrews, and Green. Although he sold his shares in the agency in 1993 when he decided to run for Mayor of Kankakee, he remained active in the insurance industry, maintaining his broker's license until his death. Combining his love of business with his strong interest in government, Don ran for and was elected to the Kankakee Community College Board of Trustees, where he served from 1978-1985. He resigned from the KCC Board when he was elected alderman of Kankakee's third ward in 1985, a position he held for one term. In 1989, he joined a crowded field of candidates seeking to become the Republican nominee for Mayor of Kankakee. He lost that primary election but ran again for mayor in 1993. He was victorious that year and went on to service four terms as Kankakee Mayor from 1993-2009. Don considered serving as Mayor of Kankakee to be one of the highest honors of his life. He was by nature a problem-solver and strove to work cooperatively with the neighboring communities as well as with both political parties. He knew that that was the only way the area could prosper. There were many major successes during his 16 years in office, but he was especially proud of working with the City Council to institute what has become the area-wide bus system, of establishing a public-private partnership that resulted in a new and greatly improved Kankakee Public Library, and of ensuring that all seven wards of the

city received equal treatment in the allocation of local tax dollars.

Throughout his life, Don was active in a variety of community organizations. He served as president of the Kankakee Area Chamber of Commerce from 1982-1984 and was also president of the Kankakee Lions Club. Over the years, he also served on the Kankakee Public Library Board, the Area Jobs Development Association Board, the Mound Grove Cemetery Board of Directors, and various committees at Asbury United Methodist Church. He also chaired the Kankakee River Valley Metropolitan Agency from 1993-2017. He and his wife co-chaired the 2008 United Way annual fund drive. He also co-chaired the major gifts division of the 2012 and 2013 YMCA Healthy Kids Campaigns.

Don also served on the People's Bank Board of Directors from 1980 until his death. He considered that appointment to be one of the highest honors of his lifetime and was grateful to the Hammes family for giving him such a meaningful opportunity.

Don was named the Rotary Club Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 1985, the Kankakee Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1995, and along with his wife received the Journal Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008 and the St. Mary's Servant Leader Award in 2009.

Don was a devoted and loving husband and father. One of the things he most enjoyed doing with his family was boating, especially on lake Michigan during those warm, sunny days of summer. Until his fall in 2015, he also loved to cook, frequenting the local grocery stores on an almost daily basis and spending time at the Farmers' Market, which was initiated during his tenure as mayor.

Don is survived by his wife of 55 years, Kay Green of Kankakee; daughter Susan (James) Lopez of Kankakee, son, Steven Green of Spring Lake, MI; one brother, Richard (Marianne) Green of Crystal Lake; and special friend and daily helpmate, Jessica Andrade.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. Friday, February 12, 2021 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, face masks and social distancing will be required. A private family funeral service will be held. Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

Memorials may be made to the Kankakee Community College Foundation or to Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM

12

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St., Kankakee, IL, US, 60901

Comments



“ I am sorry to hear of Don;'s passing. We sat together in Accounting at ISU. I was from Kempton.

Steve Kain - February 15, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ Very few people in pubic life can claim to have left the positive legacy on their city that Don Green has left on Kankakee and the region.

Bruce Cowhig - February 12, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ 107 files added to the album LifeTributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - February 11, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Don. I worked with Don when he was Mayor of Kankakee. He loved our City and always put Kankakee to first! My sympathy to Kay and his family. May his memory be eternal.
Penny Denoyer

yvonne denoyer - February 10, 2021 at 11:02 PM



“ A fine and gentle man. So sorry for Kay and children.

Jane H Potter - February 09, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ Kay and Family; Sorry for your Loss "THE MAYOR" Don was a great Guy, a very Kind and under standing Person! He represented all that was good in Kankakee, So „good by to M.r Kankakee!

Dennis Bossinger - February 09, 2021 at 10:39 AM



“ I am saddened to hear of Mayor Green's passing. I worked for Mayor Green during much of his tenure as Mayor from 1993-1999. He was a wonderful man to work for/with and he was a good friend as well. I have many fond memories working with him and I credit his guidance for my long career in public service.

My sincere sympathy goes to his wife Kay and his family. I am sure he will be missed by everyone who knew him.

With much love and respect,

Jane (Skittone) Le Clainche
Former Comptroller for the City of Kankakee

Jane Le Clainche - February 09, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to your family. Don was a sweet man, always positive about the future, a great leader and a pleasure to have known. May God bless you during this time of loss and grief.
Dr. Milt and Cindy Smit

Cynthia Smit - February 09, 2021 at 08:20 AM



“ Sorry for your loss.

Candy ray - February 08, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ Candy Ray lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Green



Candy ray - February 08, 2021 at 12:09 PM



“ I'd like to think that the “boys” are all together now, sitting in a booth and drinking coffee. I'm so very sorry for your loss and am sending much love to Kay, Steve and Susan.

sarah judd mcguinness - February 07, 2021 at 02:11 PM



“ Sarah (Judd) McGuinness

sarah judd mcguinness - February 07, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ Susan Green,
You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Susan Matthews & Family



Susan Matthews & Family - February 07, 2021 at 02:07 PM



“ May Kay and all those who knew and loved Don be comforted today and in the days to come. He was a wonderful, visionary mayor, and I cherish the memory of being appointed by Don to the Kankakee County Library Board during our brief time in the community. It was a privilege to know him and witness first hand his lasting legacies.

Candace Hill - February 07, 2021 at 01:28 PM



“ Virginia R Dominick lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Green



virginia r dominick - February 07, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ Kay, Susan, Steven, family: You are all in our thoughts as we send love and condolences. Don will be missed, a good man with a ready smile. I know my dad loved working with him at the insurance agency, as did I for a short while. Tony and I send wishes for strength and peace. Hold fast to your memories.



Nancy (Andrews) Esposito - February 04, 2021 at 07:26 AM



“ Norman and Pam Grimsley purchased the Garden Accent - A heart of gold stopped beating... for the family of Donald E. Green.



Norman and Pam Grimsley - February 03, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ Thinking of your family. I am so sorry for your loss.
With deepest sympathy,
Diane (Moreland) Kern

Diane Kern - February 03, 2021 at 04:09 PM



“ Sarah Windmiller lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Green



Sarah Windmiller - February 03, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ Ashley B. lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Green



Ashley B. - February 03, 2021 at 07:28 AM



“ My Condolences to Dr. Kay Green and her family . May God Bless you during this difficult time. Don made so many people happy..

Nicholas Lopez - February 02, 2021 at 07:51 PM



“ Janice Shenk lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Green



Janice Shenk - February 02, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ Rest in Peace Don. You served your community well.

Janice Shenk - February 02, 2021 at 05:33 PM



“ Our condolences to the Green family. Steven, sorry for your loss. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers

Thomas and Beth Riordan

Tommi Rio - February 02, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ Our condolences are extended to Kay, Susan, Steven, and the entire Green family in recognition of Don's passing. We were fortunate to know Don in his roles of KCC trustee, Kankakee alderman and Mayor, and friend in our Gracefield neighborhood for many years. Our deepest sympathies in your loss.

Larry & Christine Huffman

Larry Huffman - February 02, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ Mayor Green was first class in every way. He will be so missed.

Respectfully,

Joe Giacchino

Joseph Giacchino - February 02, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ Kay, I'm so sorry of your loss, Don was my first insurance man. I also played football with Don. In my book he was top notch. I have missed our times together at the early year parties. I will always remember Don.

Bruce Blake - February 02, 2021 at 10:22 AM

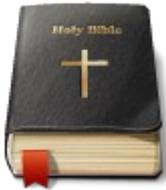


“ Heartful moments to you Kay and your family with the passing for Don. The community will be a loss. He was a good friend to me...

lynn c sheehan - February 02, 2021 at 09:49 AM



“ MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald E. Green



MR MRS - February 02, 2021 at 09:22 AM



“ My memories of Don Green are many and varied. I met him at ISU in the cafeteria, and when we moved to Kankakee in 1966, he was a neighbor. We were in a dinner club together for nearly 49 years, and he was always the life of the party. He was a fine Mayor, and a joy in my life. He loved my cherry pies, and called me his "pie lady." He will always hold a place in my heart. May God take good care of him, and bless his family and friends with warm memories.

Marsha Hill - February 02, 2021 at 09:12 AM



“ My Condolences to Don's Family - Like many other 'Kankakeeans' Don was my 'Insurance Man.' I remember him from my time on the Kankakee City Police Dept. where he always treated me fairly and with respect. He was a good, thoughtful and generous man that I was proud to call my friend.

Ron Riml, West Boothbay Harbor, ME

Ronald Riml - February 07, 2021 at 05:42 PM



“ May god be with you and your family and our deepest sympathy during this hard time

Rodney and Susan Blake

Rodney Susan Blake - February 02, 2021 at 07:08 AM



“ Kay and family have my deepest sympathy God will give you the strength you need through this hard time prayers and thoughts with you

Jeanne Benjamin - February 01, 2021 at 11:38 PM



“ I remember when Don spoke with David Letterman after Letterman sarcastically awarded Kankakee the gazebo. Don handled the comments by Letterman with wit and class.

Larry Mackin - February 01, 2021 at 11:01 PM



“ Hugs and prayers for God's peace and comfort. Very sad to lose such a wonderful man. He was so good for our community. He will be sorely missed.



Mary Thomson - February 01, 2021 at 06:51 PM



“ Bert and I are saddened to hear of Mayor Green's passing. Don was ALWAYS our favorite Mayor. Always with a friendly smile. He will truly be missed by family and friends. We know that God will keep Don in His loving Grace.
With love, Diane and Bert

Diane Siaroff - February 01, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ Don Green was a very special person devoted to the city of Kankakee. I have very fond memories of him .
He holds a special place in my heart. Rest in peace Mayor Don Green.

Terri Hult - February 01, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ Don Was A Member Of The Retreat Club He Enjoyed His Many Buddies We Loved His Beautiful Laugh You Will be Missed Love All Your Friends

James Regnier - February 02, 2021 at 09:13 AM