



## Donald J. Brewer

June 21, 1952 - June 30, 2025

Donald J. Brewer, a proud veteran, devoted husband, father, grandfather, and ornery brother, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2025 at the age of 73. He was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas but grew up in Sheridan, Arkansas where the roots of the Brewer family are memorialized. The Brewer family later moved to Pontiac, IL where he met his future wife Bonnie Sue Thompson. The two attended Olivet Nazarene University and married on December 20, 1975.

Donald began his military career by honorably serving in the United States Army in 1969 with training as a medic. His dedication earned him the National Defense Service Medal for his honorable service in Korea during the Vietnam Conflict, a reflection of his unwavering commitment to his country. He continued his service in the Illinois National Guard where he was the commanding officer for the local National Guard unit in Kankakee.

Following his military service, Donald's entrepreneurial spirit helped build careers as a respiratory therapist, owner of an insurance agency, Army recruiter, and finally in public service as a Customer Care Service Manager at the Kankakee River Valley Metro Transit District where he retired in January of 2017, leaving behind a legacy of service and professionalism. In his spare time he enjoyed bowling and softball.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor, generous heart, and deep love

for his family and community. Donald found joy in pranks and bad jokes, sharing time with loved ones, offering a helping hand, and living each day with humility and laughter.

He is survived by his wife Bonnie S. Brewer of nearly 50 years, and their children Barbara (Barbi) Brewer-Watson and Micheal of Kankakee, Jay Brewer and Jennifer of Bradley, Joseph Brewer and Jessica of Cuba, IL, and grandchildren Cole Widner, Allison Elizabeth Brewer, and Ryder Gladfelter and his siblings Raymond Brewer, Billie Sue Gawron, Russell Brewer, and Patricia Pollack all of whom carry forward his memory with deep pride and affection. He was preceded in death by parents Albert Jay and Susan G. Brewer and Brothers Joseph and Jerry Brewer.

A visitation will be held at Clancy Gernon Funeral Homes located at 1480 W Court St. Kankakee, IL 60901 on Saturday, July 5, 2025 from 2pm to 5pm. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 6 at 3pm at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene (1000 N. Entrance Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901). Interment to follow on Monday, July 7 at 2:30pm at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery (20953 W Hoff Rd., Elwood, IL 60421) with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Donald's name to Project Head Space and Timing via mail to P.O. Box 382 Manteno, IL 60950.

# Cemetery Details

## Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road  
Elwood, IL 60421

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 5. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

JUL 6. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene  
1000 N. Entrance Ave.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-1000  
<http://www.k1naz.org>

## Committal Service

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JUL 7. 2:30 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery  
20953 Hoff Road  
Elwood, IL 60421

# Tribute Wall

AF

“ *Sending our deepest condolences to the Brewer family.* ”



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**Alderwoman Cherry Malone Marshall family** - July 05, 2025 at 01:54 PM

SJ

“ *I have such happy memories of Don and Bonnie....meeting at ONU with Treble Clef tours. Then after that as friends when your family started to grow and your kids were "wee ones". Condolences to you and your family as you mourn his loss.* ”

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**Sybil Johnson** - July 03, 2025 at 10:38 AM

DL

“ *Deepest sympathy to all of Donald's family. I remember him from when I worked St.Mary's E.R. He was a kind person with a good soul.* ”



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**Debra Lambert** - July 02, 2025 at 06:21 PM

DM

“ *Donna McCollum lit a candle in memory of Donald J. Brewer* ”



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**Donna McCollum** - July 02, 2025 at 04:01 PM

DS

“ *My heart breaks for Bonnie, their children and grandchildren. Donnie was always funny, quick witted but most of all had a big heart of gold. We had many laughs together when we would gather at grandma and aunt Maxine's, and of course enjoy uncle Bert's cooking! We would often go to a nearby ice cream shop for their great ice cream. I will always cherish one Christmas we went to aunt Sue's and uncle Jay's and Donnie took us riding around town and scared the crap out of me doing donuts in a parking lot!! Please give my dad, aunt Sue, uncle Jay, Joe, grandma, Maxine and uncle Bert a hug! Love you all, and miss you dearly.*

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**Donna Edwards Smith** - July 01, 2025 at 09:54 PM