



## Donald E. Hartman

May 1, 1929 - September 3, 2011

Donald E. Hartman, 82 of Kankakee, died Saturday, September 3, 2011 at his home after a three year battle with pancreatic cancer. Visitation will be from 3-9 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz funeral chapel on West Court Street in Kankakee and for one hour before the funeral service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Merchant Street on Thursday, September 8 at 10 a.m. The Reverend Karl Koeppen will officiate. Burial will be at Mound Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Hartman was born in Goodenow, IL on May 1, 1929 to Edwin and Rose Dierking Hartman. At a young age his family moved to Beecher, IL where he was raised and attended school. He was proud to serve in the United States Navy from 1948-1951.

On April 19, 1952 he married the love of his life June Arline Watson of Pensacola, Florida. They celebrated 40 years of marriage before she died on February 21, 1993.

Surviving are his children, daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Mark Sutter of Bonfield; sons Kevin (Chops) Hartman and fiancée Alice Donnersberger of St. Anne and Kerry and Shelley Hartman of Bradley; grandchildren, Beth Sutter and Dan Walters, Josh and Amanda Snyder Sutter, Courtney and Drew Hartman, Kyle, Kayla and Kohl Hartman, Kelsie and Cory Donnersberger;

Taylor Serrata; great-grandchild, Ashton Mayers; two sisters Georgene Johnstone of Crete and Joan (Joe) Kraus of Steger; special friend and companion, Bea Leathers and life long friend and coffee buddy Bill Barnett.

Deceased are his parents and his first grandchild, Chad Edward Sutter.

On November 5, 1994 he married his loving second wife, Dolores (Doe) McCarty. They were married for 13 years until she died on August 15, 2007. He was a friend to her children; Denise (Doug) Brown; Rick (Kathy) McCarty; and all her grandchildren. He had a special bond with her daughter, Denita McCarty and granddaughter Kate Brown.

Mr. Hartman was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Kankakee for 52 years. He retired in 1990 from Northern IL Gas Company where he worked for 38 years. In the late 1950's and early 60's he owned and raced Midget, Sprint and stock cars. Sprint cars were his favorite and he traveled throughout Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan to race them. When he retired from racing he became the flagman at Sugar Island Speedway and at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds for seven years. Later he became the track photographer for the local race track as well as for Midwest Racing News and other USAC publications. For many years he was also a well known local wedding photographer. He coached the Bradley-Bourbonnais Sportsman Club Little League team for 10 years. Mr. Hartman loved to fly and loved all kinds of airplanes especially the WWII planes. He enjoyed the outdoors and loved hunting, fishing, gardening and mowing grass for anyone who needed it. He was a White Sox, Cubs and NASCAR fan but his favorite sports were any that involved his children or grandchildren. He loved to travel, visit with friends and make his famous peanut brittle during the holidays. He was a huge history buff and had a love for the arts, especially live theatre. He was a kind and caring person who loved his faith, family and friends. He will be missed by

many and loved by all.

Memorials may be made to Kankakee Valley Theatre Association; St. Paul's Lutheran School or Hospice of Kankakee Valley. Please sign his guestbook at [clancygernon.com](http://clancygernon.com).

Pallbearers are Josh Sutter, Drew Hartman, Kyle Hartman, Kohl Hartman, Cory Donnersberger, Brian Osterhoff and Mike Lebert.

Memorials to Kankakee Valley Theatre Association - [www.kvta.org/](http://www.kvta.org/);

St. Paul's Lutheran School - [www.stpaulslutheran.net/](http://www.stpaulslutheran.net/)

Hospice of Kankakee Valley - [www.hkvcares.org/](http://www.hkvcares.org/)

# Cemetery Details

## Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 933-6726

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 7. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

SEP 8. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
348 E. Merchant  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-0312  
<http://www.stpaulslutheran.net>

## Funeral Service

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SEP 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
348 E. Merchant  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-0312  
<http://www.stpaulslutheran.net>

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Our most sincere condolences go out to Paula and her family for their loss.

*Don was a good man and I know will be missed by all that knew him.*

*Johnny & Jean Holt*

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**Johnny Holt** - September 08, 2011 at 03:38 PM

DE

“ The Hartmans were a part of my life, Don, Arline, Paula, Kevin and Kerry; I remember them all fondly. I remember Don as being a great dad, husband and person. Arline was my secretary and I taught Paula coached Kevin and chased Kerry around the halls of BBCHS .Its been many ,many years and I've witness thousands of families come through BBCHS but I still remember The Hartmans Don Arline, Paula ,Kevin and Kerry. So sorry for your loss Don was always a smiling happy person who loved his kids wife and living life. Dennis Bossinger 8930 W.Kerry lane Peoria Arizona

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**DennisBossinger** - September 07, 2011 at 08:34 PM

TK

“ I've known Don for nearly forty years thru our shared interest in auto racing and its history. I purchased a former racing photographers collection ten years ago and I remember how thrilled Don was when he found a photo of him racing at a big car (now known as a sprint car) at a dirt track near South Bend back in the early fifties.

*Always had that kind welcoming smile that is so missing in todays world.....*

*Keep taking those great pics in that other place - where we all will visit when the checkered flag finally ends our own personal race.*

*Ted and Cathy Knorr Speedway, IN*

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**Ted Knorr** - September 07, 2011 at 11:49 AM

RL

“ I WENT WITH DON ON SOME RACE WEEKENDS YEARS AGO.THE NASCAR RACES AT MICHIGAN AND THE ALL AMERICAN 400 AT NASHVILLE TN.JUST TO NAME A FEW DON ALWAYS HAD A WELCOMING SMILE WHEN HE SEEN YOU AND ALWAYS HAD A KIND WORD TO SAY.PAULA ,KERRY AND KEVIN I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WILL MISS HIM.I WILL ALWAYS HAVE GREAT MEMORIES OF A GREAT MAN.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

RANDY & ETHEL LAMB

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**RANDY LAMB** - September 07, 2011 at 11:33 AM

PP

“ I'll always remermber how kind Don was to me and my family He even help me build my shed .....God Bless.....Pete Popravak



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**Peter Popravak** - September 07, 2011 at 08:33 AM

BW

“ Kerry and Shelly, Chops and Alice and families my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Barbie Weissbohn

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**Barbie Weissbohn** - September 07, 2011 at 08:10 AM

ER

“ *The neighborhood will be a little sad at the loss of a great visitor to the hood, but knowing he is above looking down at us continuing on as expected is reassuring. I am glad the familys all got to share with Don their thoughts and feelings these last few weeks. The ordeal was long and drawn out because Don was so strong, but there is no more pain and he is at peace now, all is well. .Race on my man... you will be missed*

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**Ernie Richardson** - September 07, 2011 at 07:38 AM

NJ

“ *Paula and families, You have my deepest sympathy. Paula has always talked so fondly of her dad. The recent article in the paper was such a tribute to his enjoyment for racing and his zest for life. You are in my prayers.*

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**Nancy Johnson** - September 07, 2011 at 07:34 AM

DM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Kerry, Kevin and Paula. I will miss sitting in the pit stands talking about life and racing with your wonderful dad. Don always was quick with a smile and a kind word and I will miss him at the family picnics as well. Your parents always helped keep me in line from the speedway photo booth as I was growing up! As we fly on an airplane tomorrow to FL I will be saying a prayer in the sky for a wonderful man. God Bless.*

*Don and Nicole McCarty*

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**Don McCarty** - September 06, 2011 at 09:35 PM



JG

“ Paula, Kerry and Kevin your parents were both awesome people and I have a special place in my heart for them both and the days of Bourbonnais Bears Football, especially the Pictures Don took of all the kids.

We are never ready to let them go but I he is at least not in pain anymore.

Love to you all and your families. Jackie and Jim Geary

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**Jacqueline Geary** - September 06, 2011 at 09:15 PM

CH

“ Kerry, Kevin and Paula, my thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Know that your Dad made lifetime impressions on everyone he met and talked with.

Chris Hendrickson

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**Chris Hendrickson** - September 06, 2011 at 07:44 PM

TW

“ Kerry, Kevin and Paula, I wish you all peace in the loss of your Dad. He was a kind, sweet man with the nicest smile. I agree, he will be missed by many.

Teri Worth (formerly Teri Menard)

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**Teri Worth** - September 06, 2011 at 06:51 PM

DM

“ Don was like a father to me. He was kind and loving, and treated my children like he was their Grandpa. I was very blessed that he came into our family. He was so proud of his children and grandchildren, always telling me whats going on with their school and sports. Grandpa Don you will truly be missed. Love always.



*Denita McCarty, Melody Popravak, Trevor Popravak*

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**Denita A. McCarty** - September 06, 2011 at 05:12 PM

JL

“ Julie Pierson Leary lit a candle in memory of Donald E. Hartman



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**Julie Pierson Leary** - September 06, 2011 at 04:37 PM

JL

“ Don was one of the sweetest men I ever knew. Always a smile, always a kind word for everyone. I remember working with Paula in his photo booth during the stock car races..and all of the picnics in thier back yard.. My later gradeschool and early highschool years were MUCH spent at the Hartman home. Don was always taking pictures of someone or some thing.. My deepest and sincerest sympathies to Paula, Kevin, and Kerry and their families. Don can never be replaced. I know he is finally getting to know my Dad. Heaven is a happier place :) He will be missed by everyone  
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Julie Pierson Leary - 25 seconds ago*

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**Julie Pierson Leary** - September 06, 2011 at 04:35 PM

DY

“ It seemed like so many years of Saturday mornings with Don. I would be reporting on the Friday night races and Don was taking the photos. Some days he would drop them off at the newspaper. Other times, I would stop at his house and get them fresh from the bathroom/darkroom. But every week: He delivered. I never saw him drive, but I saw him flag races. And I saw him as a fan, once even when his buddy Brian Osterhoff drove him to Morris for a midget show. But I never saw him without a ready smile. I was honored to get to write about him in the paper last week. Honored to get the chance to talk to him again. And honored to discover what a great, loving, supportive family he had. A lot of us racing people are going to miss Don... and we hope he gets to drive another Osterhoff Special up there. Until I get to cover one of those races, I'll just thank his family for sharing him with us.

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**Dennis Yohnka** - September 04, 2011 at 06:40 PM

JL

Don was one of the sweetest men I ever knew. Always a smile, always a kind word for everyone. I remember working with Paula in his photo booth during the stock car races..and all of the picnics in thier back yard.. My later gradeschool and early highschool years were MUCH spent at the Hartman home. Don was always taking pictures of someone or some thing.. My deepest and sincerest sympathies to Paula, Kevin, and Kerry and their families. Don can never be replaced. I know he is finally getting to know my Dad. Heaven is a happier place :) He will be missed by everyone !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**Julie Pierson Leary** - September 06, 2011 at 04:32 PM