



Donald Merwin

September 5, 1927 - November 10, 2012

Donald P. Merwin, 85, of Manteno, passed away at 12:03 a.m. Saturday (Nov. 10, 2012) at his home. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. Wednesday until the noon funeral service at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Manteno. Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Mr. Merwin was born Sept. 5, 1927, in Kankakee, the son of Robert and Mae Delavergne Merwin. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1946 to 1948, returning to Kankakee to work as a reporter for The Daily Journal. He continued his journalistic career with stints at the Joliet Herald-News from 1950 to 1961 and the Louisville Times from 1961 to 1968. Then upon moving to Manteno, he worked in public relations for 16 years with Carl Byoir & Associates in downtown Chicago before moving back to the other side of the news desk with a major trade magazine, Highway & Heavy Construction. There he spent one week of every month in Washington D.C. reporting on the economics and politics involved in heavy construction. Following his retirement, Mr. Merwin and his wife, the former Madelyn Bourell, whom he married June 10, 1951, in Kankakee, made dozens of trips abroad, covering six of the seven continents — all but Antarctica. His wife preceded him in death Sept. 26, 2011.

Surviving are two daughters and one son-in-law, Donna and Patrick Hayes, of

Virginia Beach, Va., and Paula Jett, of Manteno; one daughter-in-law, Linda Johnson, of Oconomowoc, Wis.; 11 grandchildren, Carolyn (Kevin) Mohr, of Midlothian, Va., Buzz (Christine) Hayes, Nicholas DeBouck, Cheryl (Shawn) Mohr, and Jason (Adrian) Hayes, all of Virginia Beach, Gregory (Pamela) Hayes, of Fayetteville, N.C., Shane Clark, of New York, Jennifer (Todd) Yarno, of Manteno, Melissa Jett, of Chicago, and Heather and Melanie DeBouck, of Tustin, Calif.; 21 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Patricia and Norman "Bud" Hartman, of Manteno; two nieces, Linda Hartman, of Newport Beach, Calif., and Diana Bloxam, of Bloomington; and great-nieces, Lucy and Cally Bloxam, of Bloomington.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Merwin was preceded in death by his parents; one son, William DeBouck; one son-in-law, Donald Jett; one daughter-in-law, Linda DeBouck; his brother, Richard; and one niece, Sandra Hartman.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley - hkvcares.com/

Cemetery Details

Elmwood Cemetery

9000 E. Road
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 468-7891

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Manteno - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
291 N. Main St.
Manteno, IL 60950
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

NOV **14**. 12:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

CM

“ After high school, I decided to study theater in Chicago. I applied to The Goodman Theater School. When I scored an audition, I assumed I would be going there so I did not apply anywhere else or have a backup plan. Gramps, who worked downtown in Chicago and was much more savvy about the competition in the art scene, suggested that I apply to Columbia College, a small up and coming liberal arts college in the city. I had never heard of it and poo poed the idea. After a grueling audition at Goodman where I had to act like cotton candy, pea soup and do my my monologue as a chandelier, I told Gramps I needed more information about Columbia. He already had the application and brochure for me. I ended up as a theater major at Columbia and loved every minute of it. Thanks Gramps for your sage wisdom on so many things.

Love,

Rosie xo

carolyn rose hayes mohr - November 13, 2012 at 10:04 PM

SM

“ Paula....you're dad was a wise and fascinating person to talk to. We all learned a lot from him over the years and take that wisdom with us. There was no bigger Bears fan and I will miss our periodic Bears game days down here at the beach. I'll miss him. Although I can't be there for the service my thoughts are with you and the rest of the family. -Shawn

Shawn Mohr - November 13, 2012 at 03:10 PM

CD

“ *Paula and family...My heart felt condolences and love to you all. We as a family were close growing up...living on the same street, celebrating every holiday together, the swimming the ice skating. The memories will live on even as those we love pass. I know your father took the love of you all with him.*

Candy & Family

Candice Senesac Duersteler - November 13, 2012 at 11:14 AM

BS

“ *Paula and Merwin Family,*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. How wonderful that you were able to be by his side for many of his last days. I'm sure that he felt all your love and the care that you gave him.

Love,

Bruce & Robert

Bruce Senesac - November 13, 2012 at 10:09 AM

DT

“ *Dear Paula-*
So sorry to hear of your father's passing. You and your family our in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Dawn & Wally

Dawn M. Thayer - November 13, 2012 at 08:31 AM