



Donald H. Schafer

August 18, 1932 - January 8, 2018

Donald H Schafer, 85, of Chebanse, died Monday, January 8, 2018, peacefully at his residence.

Don was born August 18, 1932, in Chebanse, the son of Leo A. and Lucinda M. Christiansen Schafer. He was the beloved husband of Elsie Mae Kempen, married on January 15, 1955, in L'Erable. She survives.

Also surviving are four daughters and three sons. Kim Schafer Astroth of Normal, Dianne (Terry) Schaafsma of Bourbonnais, Judy (Ray) Schafer Torres of Richmond, TX, Ann (Keith) Jensen of Clifton, David (Suzie) Schafer, Dennis (Barb) Schafer, and Dean (Elizabeth) Schafer all of Chebanse.

He is also survived by 22 grandchildren: Luke and Seth Astroth, Erin (Chris) Astroth Belt, Kate (Nick) Schaafsma Hornyak, Drew (Ashlee) Schaafsma, Tricia Kendrick, John (Gennifer) Gateley, Jillian (Michael) Jackson, Scott (Jenna) Schafer, Bethany (Chad) Garrison, Joshua and Brooke Schafer, Kyle, Karley, and Allison (Jake) Jensen, Brandon (Aimee) Ponton, Amanda (Justin) Ponton, Joseph (Kaley) Ponton, Evan, Benjamin, William, and Landon Schafer, and 17 great-grandchildren: Jade Barzilla-Gateley, Maxim Kendrick, Blane, Jalynn, Hayden, Macie, and Ryleigh Gateley, Abigail, Mackinsey, Caden, Cooper, and Lillian Jackson, Louis Astroth Belt, Finnegan Hornyak, Jaxon and Jemma Ponton, Asher Stipp, plus 3 more on the way.

Also surviving are three sisters, two brothers-in-law and three sisters-in-law. Leola Ader, Mary Ann and Homer Withrow, JoAnn Froidcoeur, Bob and Kathy Kempen, Betty Lou Fred, and Dorine Schafer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter, Dawn, one great grandson, Logan Kendrick, and his brother, John.

Don attended school in Chebanse and served in the US army during the Korean War. He was an original board member of the Federated Bank of Chebanse. Don was a past board member of both the Illinois Feed and Grain Association and the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association. He was also a member of the Moose, the Elks, the Chebanse American Legion, COF, and Knights of Columbus.

Don was a farmer for many years before starting to sell fertilizer off the farm in 1963. He started Chebanse Crop Service in 1970 with partners, then bought a grain elevator in 1976. One of his greatest joys was being at the elevator. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for one of his customers, many of whom became great friends.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2018 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Visitation will also be held from 9:30 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. funeral Mass on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in L'Erable.

Burial will follow at Sts. Mary & Joseph Cemetery in Chebanse.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to U Chicago Medicine, Hospice of Kankakee Valley, Sts. Mary & Joseph Church Building or Cemetery Fund, Masses, or the donor's choice.

Cemetery Details

Sts. Mary & Joseph

Chebanse, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

JAN 13. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
L'Erable, IL

Funeral Mass

JAN 13. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
L'Erable, IL

Tribute Wall

RM

“ Just today I learned of Don's passing! My love to Elsie and all the children. We served together on the Bank Board for 35 years. I respected Don's wisdom on many matters. I am so sorry I did not hear this earlier. I would have traveled the hundred's of miles between us to been at his remembrance. Peace and Grace to all the family. Richard and Marsha Maxey.

Richard Maxey - January 25, 2018 at 09:42 AM

BR

“ My Sincere sympathy to Elsie and the family. I have fond memories of my relationship Don. Everything from walking fields, helping with the annual customer banquets, and of course the many trips with Stauffer Chemical. May you find comfort in the old Celtic proverb "There is now one less tie that binds us to earth and one more tie that binds us to heaven" Bill Randell

Bill Randell - January 17, 2018 at 02:32 PM



“ In Memory - 6" L x 2.5" H Memorial Stone was purchased for the family of Donald H. Schafer.



January 13, 2018 at 10:46 AM

DT

“ *Diana Jensen Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald H. Schafer*



Diana Jensen Taylor - January 12, 2018 at 08:31 PM

DT

“ *Elsie and kids, May God give you all the strength, love and guidance in the days ahead as only he can while dealing with the loss of a great man. My parents Harold and Vi Jensen, shared memories and some stories of the years gone past while dad worked for Don. He was always a caring person to my parents when they were dealing with health issues and I always respected that. His work here may be done but he will always be a guardian angel to many. Rejoice knowing he is now at peace. God bless you all.*

Diana Jensen Taylor - January 12, 2018 at 08:31 PM

RF

Elsie and family, I was so sorry to hear of Don's passing. Please accept my sympathies. I worked with both of you booking banquet reservations at The Redwood Inn. You were both a joy to do business with.....very thorough and on top of your numbers. May God give you and your family comfort. Sincerely, Rod Ferguson. (former Redwood Inn manager)

Rodney and Linda Ferguson - January 14, 2018 at 05:32 PM

BN

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Schafer Family. My mother Dorothy O'connor Niesen was Don's cousin. My father Wilbur was one of Don's many customers of Chebanse Crop Service.*

Bernard Niesen - January 12, 2018 at 07:37 PM

TK

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Schafer Family*

Tommy & Debbie Kroll

Tommy Kroll - January 12, 2018 at 06:57 PM

JA

“ *My condolences to all members of the Donald Schafer family. Don was always better to me than I deserved. When I was just a kid dating his daughter, I will never forget Don telling me to fill up my car with gas from his tank in the farm yard - a small gesture, perhaps, but one that says so much about the type of man he was.*

Jon Astroth - January 11, 2018 at 08:19 PM



“ *2 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Michael Jackson - January 11, 2018 at 04:15 PM

TJ

“ *I wish to express my heartfelt condolences and respects to the Shafer family. Mr Shafer was a trustworthy confidant and mentor to me. He helped me immensely during my career. He truly is a GIANT among his peers. Peace be with you. With utmost respect and highest regards, Tom Jennings*

tom jennings - January 11, 2018 at 02:50 PM



“ 100 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - January 11, 2018 at 02:12 PM

BR

“ *God's peace and comfort as you mourn the loss of Don. Blessings, Bev and family*

Beverly Rasmussen - January 11, 2018 at 12:21 PM

JS

“ *My deepest sympathy to Elsie and family. Arlen and I enjoyed several winters in AZ, two were at the same community as Don and Elsie. As alzheimers progressed we could no longer travel. They are both at peace and we will join them someday.*
Janice Speckman

Janice Speckman - January 11, 2018 at 11:48 AM

DC

“ Want to give our condolences to all the Don Schafer family, Don & Elsie were a very spiritual family both at church and day to day living. Don has always been a great business friend and will look forward to seeing him again when someday I'll join him.
Dean & Sandra Chesnut

Dean Chesnut - January 11, 2018 at 09:37 AM

CM

“ Sorry to hear of his passing..Always enjoyed visiting with him and truly respected him. Carl and Suzi McQueen

Carl McQueen - January 11, 2018 at 08:53 AM

CS

“ Elsie, Dean and all members of the family. He. Will be missed. He was a good friend to all.

Cherie Saindon - January 11, 2018 at 01:21 AM

DB

“ Sorry for your loss,,my thoughts and prayers for the family

David Boness - January 10, 2018 at 09:28 PM

SB

“ Please accept our sympathy on Don's passing. He will be missed by his family, friends and multitudes of customers. He was a great guy who always had time to talk to you. Norman Bauer and Shirley Berger

Shirley Berget - January 10, 2018 at 08:21 PM

GP

“ Our condolences to Elsie and the family on Don's passing. He was just a great person to everyone he met. He will be missed by all.

George Papineau - January 10, 2018 at 07:12 PM

CH

“ I am so sorry to hear from Don's passing. I was his Shell/DuPont representative from 1984 to 1990, and I very much enjoyed working with him. Many funny stories involving him and his colleagues (Killian/Richie/Trainer). I am most grateful for the things I learned from Don. He was always kind, soft spoke, honest and a man of high integrity...and he inspired me to model that behavior. My condolences to Elsie, Dean and the rest of the family. No doubt he will be missed.

Chris Harr - January 10, 2018 at 05:19 PM

RS

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Schafer Family

Kris & Rosemarie Schaeffer

rosemarie Schaeffer - January 10, 2018 at 03:45 PM

AS

“ Don was a very special man, always a pleasure to have around. My Sympathy to Elsie and her family.

Anna Schaeffer - January 10, 2018 at 02:29 PM

AS

“ *Anna Schaeffer lit a candle in memory of Donald H. Schafer*



Anna Schaeffer - January 10, 2018 at 02:22 PM

DF

“ *My sympathy to the family, Don was well liked and respected by everyone who knew him and ever worked with him. He will be greatly missed. May he rest in our Lord's eternal light forever.*

Dan Froelich - January 10, 2018 at 02:12 PM

MA

“ *Our sympathies to Aunt Elsie and family on Uncle Dons passing..*

*Mark
Ashley
Chad*

Mark - January 10, 2018 at 01:55 PM

RT

“ *Don was a great help with my early education as a farm news reporter and editor for The Daily Journal. Always helpful, always friendly. Bob Themer*

Robert Themer - January 10, 2018 at 01:11 PM

RS

“ *Deepest sympathies to all the Schafer family.
Admired and respected Don in our business dealings over the past
25+ years.
Always a man of his word.
He will be missed.*

Ron Schwier

Ron Schwier - January 10, 2018 at 01:07 PM

SS

“ *My condolences to the entire Schafer family. Your father (and
mother) raised a great family and contributed immensely to the
community through his hard work, successful endeavors, and kind
spirit.*

Sean Sweeney

Sean Sweeney - January 10, 2018 at 11:38 AM

JS

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Judy SchaferTorres - January 10, 2018 at 10:54 AM

KJ

Wow this picture says it all. I will truly miss this man

Keith Jensen - January 10, 2018 at 02:02 PM

CC

Our deepest sympathy to all of the family.

Carol Cheffer - January 10, 2018 at 08:49 PM

RM

Believe it or not I could find a place to sit in this office when I needed to see Don about bank business!

Richard Maxey - January 25, 2018 at 09:33 AM

GE

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Schafer family. May the memories you treasure bring you peace and joy in the days ahead.*
Gwen

Gwen Eaglin - January 10, 2018 at 09:43 AM

GM

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Elsie and the family on the loss of such a good man. My memories of Mr. Schafer are rooted in my childhood with recent ones of conversations held when he visited the Kankakee County Farm Bureau office. He was ever kind and loved talking about his family and farming operations.*

The community of Chebanse has lost a great leader and our area farmers have lost a wonderful source of support and guidance. May his legacy in the farming and business communities live on through his children. He may not be near now, but he will not be forgotten and he will be missed by so very many. Rest in peace Mr. Schafer.

Gary and Rose Devine Mitchell - January 10, 2018 at 09:38 AM

MB

“ *My Deepest Sympathies to Mrs. Shafer and Family. Don was a kind man who will be greatly missed.*

Mark Baker

Mark Baker - January 10, 2018 at 09:09 AM

MK

“ *Don was well known in the grain business and I had the pleasure of working with him merchandising grain. He was good at running his business and being an advocate for agriculture. He did it in his unassuming way by working well with others. Don was much liked and respected. I was fortunate to know him.*

Mike Kerber - January 10, 2018 at 08:47 AM

JA

“ *I pray that God is wrapping His arms around you all, filling you with more joy than sadness, knowing that Donald is now resting beside our almighty Father in Heaven.... Love, Prayers and Sympathy.....
June*

June Alexander - January 10, 2018 at 08:08 AM

PB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to Elsie and her family. Don was a kind well respected man we had the privilege of knowing. He truly will be missed*

Love, Warren & Pat Bussian

Pat & Warren Bussian - January 10, 2018 at 06:32 AM

JJ

The best friend i ever had was in service with him, back in the early 50's, have been in touch with him all these years, have been in contact with him all these years, One of the 3 of us was John Tillstra, former mayor of Onarga, we have been in contact with one another all these yera, Wife elsie , one fine an lovely person she is! Gonna miss you.. Don u were the best Jim Jaeger

Jim jaeger - January 10, 2018 at 10:25 AM

CG

“ *Our condolences to the Schafer family. Curt Gigl and family*

Curt Gigl - January 09, 2018 at 10:39 PM

MJ

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Don was a wonderful man and will be missed by many people.*

melvin and Judy Janssen - January 09, 2018 at 10:08 PM

NF

“ *Elsie & Family*

I am so sorry to learn about Don. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God be with you. Natalene Ferrari

Natalene Ferrari - January 09, 2018 at 08:22 PM

TK

“ *Our sympathy to our Aunt Elsie and to all the Schafer family. Uncle Don was a great person.*

Tom & Pam

Tom Kempen - January 09, 2018 at 07:51 PM

SS

“ Deepest sympathy to the Shafer family for your loss. Scott Sweeney

Scott Sweeney - January 09, 2018 at 07:10 PM

DB

“ My heart and prayers are with the Schafer family during this trying time. May he rest in peace and may you all be strengthen in the knowledge that he now resides with our Lord, surrounded by love and great joy. My deepest condolences.

Diego Beltran - January 09, 2018 at 06:33 PM

JL

“ So sorry for your loss. He was a great man!

Jill Lovell - January 09, 2018 at 05:52 PM

DM

“ My sincere thoughts are with the Schafer family during this very difficult time. Please accept my condolences and know that you are in my prayers. Sincerely, Dianne McGee

Dianne McGee - January 09, 2018 at 05:34 PM

RO

“ I sure will miss my ole buddy Don.I have welded literally thousands of projects for him and am VERY Blessed to have had him in my life. I am absolutely heart broken. My prayers are with his family at this time. Thank You Don and God Bless you.
Your Friend, Randy

randy oconnor - January 09, 2018 at 04:58 PM

RB

“ *My condolences to all of Don's family. Sincerely Robert Berns and family*

Robert Berns - January 09, 2018 at 03:27 PM

KA

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Schafer family.*

*Kathy Shanahan
Compeer Financial*

Kathy - January 09, 2018 at 02:14 PM