



## Donald Denniston

November 10, 1951 - July 30, 2025

Don Denniston, 73, of Ottumwa, passed away on the morning of July 30, 2025, at the Good Samaritan Society in Ottumwa.

Donald Lynn Denniston, son of George Harry and Verla May (Dixon) Denniston, was born November 10, 1951, at St. Joseph Hospital in Ottumwa, Iowa. At age 14, he quit school to go to work. His first job was at Shaul Cemetery in Ottumwa. At age 17, he joined the Army and was eventually sent to Germany. In the Army, he served as a cook and was discharged as a corporal in 1975. While in the Army, Don married Gail Granneman on July 13, 1970; two children were born to this union, and she joined him in Germany. They later divorced. Don married Debra (Jordan) Weiss on December 10, 1977; two children were born to this union. They later divorced. Upon his return to Ottumwa, he went to work in a body shop; he worked as a car body repairman until 1992. At that time, he returned to school at Indian Hills Community College and earned his certification to drive semi-trucks. Don mainly drove out of Des Moines, hauling produce. He retired in 1997. In 2012, Don met Linda Arterburn, and they soon became companions.

Don learned to love cooking while in the Army and became an excellent cook and baker. He also enjoyed tinkering with old cars and attending collector car shows.

Don's family includes his children: Scott (Kathy) Denniston of Phoenix, AZ; DeAnna Heronomus of Fort Worth, TX; Don (Sarah) Conder of Ottumwa; and Frances Denniston of Ottumwa; his grandchildren: Sierra Yeoman, Zachary, Devon, Aaron, Colton, Hannah and Erica Conder, and Noah Denniston; his companion's daughters: Bernadette Garza of Chicago, IL and Brianna Porter Arterburn of Keosauqua; her son, Bradley Arterburn of Coralville; her grandchildren: Olivia and Lucas Porter; his siblings and their spouses: Sharon and Bob Parcell of Ottumwa; Rebecca Eklofe of Ottumwa; and Tina and Charlie Padgett of Ottumwa; two sisters-in-law: Nancy Denniston of Ottumwa and Linda Denniston of Sparks, NV; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Don was preceded in death by his companion, Linda Arterburn;

his second wife, Deborah Weiss; four brothers: Richard Eakins, Jerry, William, and Ronald Denniston; two sisters: Lorraine Stevens and Jean Goetz; a granddaughter, Madison Akerman; a grandson, Dustin Yeoman; and a brother-in-law, Jerry Eklofe.

As was Don's wish, his body has been cremated. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, August 7, 2025, at Old White Cemetery in Oskaloosa. The Oskaloosa Honor Guard will be presenting Military Honors. Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory has been entrusted with Don's arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter.

# Cemetery Details

## Old White Cemetery

Oskaloosa, IA

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

AUG 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

Old White Cemetery  
Oskaloosa, IA

*Please meet at the Cemetery.*

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ This is who my Dad was 🙏❤️🙏



DeAnna Lynn - August 07, 2025 at 02:55 AM

SD

“ Scot, Kathy, and Noah Denniston purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Denniston.



Scot, Kathy, and Noah Denniston - August 06, 2025 at 01:06 AM

TP

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Tina padgett - August 02, 2025 at 09:34 PM

TP

“ I went one day to fix Don meal because he hadn't been eating well so I fixed him minute steak,potatoes,and gravy. He decided it was pretty,so good that he didn't offer to share the 2nd one..so I sat there while ate .I was so glad he enjoyed it .he ate the whole thing and added 2nd helping of gravy to it.we will miss you so much. I still find myself wanting to check to see if he needs me to pickup anything for him.RIP Don like you say It is what is. And it will all be ok

Tina Padgett - August 01, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Denniston.



---

August 01, 2025 at 01:32 PM

RE

“ I am Becky ,Don's sister and we were only 18 months apart.Growing up he would play dolls with me and I would play in the mud with cars and trucks.Donnie used to love to pretend his arm was broken and wear a sling made from a dish towel.when he finally broke his arm that took care of thinking it was fun. These last 2 years him and I became friends as adult.He had a sly little humor.fussy as a old women,kept his car so so clean,could outcook me.His favorite saying was,it is what it is! He has known his time was limited and made sure that his dogs would be taken care and tried so hard not be a burden on anyone.i had taken him for a Dr visit and notice he had a white hair sticking out of his ear.Now being the kind sister I am ,I yank it and mean hard like you do when yanking from a dogs ear.Donnie said hey Beck that's my hearing aid.i was so worried I had broke it but he check it out but said dam you got a strong grip.We both laught until we almost cried!! I am going to miss him so much so glad we had time together. So happy he is without pain and with the rest of our family! Donnie was a blessing and a someone to model yourself after! Love you and will see you later! Becky Eklofe

---

Rebecca Eklofe - July 31, 2025 at 02:48 PM