



Donald Lee Else

January 4, 1945 - February 1, 2026

Donald Else, 81, of New Sharon, peacefully passed away Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the Mahaska Health Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa.

Donald Lee Else, son of Roy and Gertrude (Steenhoek) Else, was born January 4, 1945, in New Sharon, Iowa. Growing up, Donald attended North Mahaska High School and was a member of the Warhawk teams in choir, track, baseball, and football. Don graduated with the class of 1963. He then attended William Penn College before beginning his career in the banking industry. Don later held a variety of positions in the finance sector. Don was married to Jennifer Chaplik, and together they had a son, Thomas. Don lived in Urbandale for most of his working career before moving back to his hometown of New Sharon.

Don was very proud of his sons who served in the United States Navy. He was also proud of his granddaughters' growth & success. In his leisure time, he enjoyed fishing with his sons, Tom and John; John always seemed to be the luckiest with reeling in the first catch. Don loved being a joyful prankster with his kids & granddaughters, such as planting lollipops in the yard to make his granddaughters believe that they suddenly grew there. Additionally, he enjoyed WW2 & Vietnam history, sprint car races, dancing, golfing with friends, and family vacations to the Black Hills, which were among Don's most cherished memories. He was also an avid dog lover, even getting his little buddy, Norman "Grumps" Else, a miniature long-haired red dachshund, whom he was known to spoil daily.

Don's family includes his two sons: Thomas Else of New Sharon; and John Merkley of Shamong, NJ; his granddaughters: Ashley and Avery Merkley of West Des Moines; a sister, Pat Boyd of Mt. Vernon; nieces: Mary Leopold of Mt. Vernon; and Sandy Allen; and his ever faithful companion, his dog, Norman.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Gertrude.

Memorial services for Don will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., at Langkamp Funeral Chapel, with Reverend Molly Goodrich of First Christian Church officiating. Visitation will begin Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and continue until the service time. As was his wish, Don's body has been cremated. Memorials may be made to the Mahaska Hospice Serenity House or the Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter.

Previous Events

Open Visitation

FEB 7. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Lee Else*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - February 06 at 04:38 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Lee Else.*



February 05 at 11:48 PM



“ *Don was my insurance customer for many years. I always loved his visits to our office. He would update us on his golf game, Prairie Homes, and visits to the greenhouse which he loved. My prayers are for his family that God will offer not only comfort but the gift of small memories that make up the canvas of one's life lived. He was truly a great guy.*

Amy McGriff, New Sharon, IA

Amy McGriff - February 04 at 12:14 PM

BM

*Don would visit Tom and me in Ottumwa
We always had to golf. His parents were good friends with my in-laws.
He will be missed by his family. Betty Matusick Ames*

Betty Matusick - February 04 at 04:24 PM

DL

*I had the pleasure of meeting and becoming friends with Don when we
attended William Penn College. I enjoyed Don's sense of humor, his
stories of high school football, and his obvious love of his family. We
both left William Penn after a couple of years and I have thought of
Don over the years. I happy to read that he had a wonderful life and
family.*

*Denny Life DPM
Columbia, Mo*

Denny Life - March 12 at 01:53 PM