



Donald McSparen

January 9, 1949 - August 1, 2024

Donald McSparen, 75, of Ottumwa and formerly Oskaloosa, passed away Thursday, August 1, 2024, at his home in Ottumwa.

Donald Lester McSparen, son of Donald Raymond and Mary Louise (Anderson) McSparen, was born January 9, 1949, in Ottumwa, Iowa. Following his education at Ottumwa Schools, he studied truck driving at Greer Technical Institute in Braidwood, Illinois. He worked as a truck driver until 1973, when he enlisted in the Navy. His basic training was in San Diego. While in the Navy, he served on the U.S.S. America, the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the U.S.S. Carl Vinson. He traveled around the world eight times on the three carriers and was assigned to the V.F.A. Attack Squadron, the "Warhawks." While serving at Kirkland Air Force Base in 1977, he met the love of his life, Mary Ellen McGregor. They married September 1, 1978, in Albuquerque, NM. Donald's career in the Navy required many moves; they resided in Berlin, NM; Alameda, CA; Lemoore, CA; Norfolk, VA; and Adak, Alaska; and numerous other locations. Due to a service-related injury, Don was granted leave in 1993, and the family moved to Oskaloosa. He officially retired from the Navy in October 8, 1997.

Mary passed away on May 27, 2018. In 2022, Donald married Marie Veto.

Don was a member of the American Legion, the V.F.W., the D.A.V., the Fleet

Reserve Association, and the Eagles Lodge. In retirement, he enjoyed coffee with his friends at McDonalds, riding motorcycles, fishing, and taking occasional trips to the casinos.

Don's family includes his wife, Marie of Oskaloosa; his twin sons, Donnie McSparen of Oskaloosa, and Travis (Stephanie) McSparen of Pella, a daughter, Michelle Hillman of Gardnerville, NV; four grandchildren: Jaden, Bella, and Breezie McSparen, and Mercedes Doty; a sister, Debbie (Jerry) Hedgecock of Noblesville, IN; nephews: Corey McSparen of Des Moines and Scott McSparen of Oskaloosa; and nieces: Amy McSparen Pierce of Ankeny and Monica Roberts of Ottumwa.

In addition to his parents and wife, Mary, of 40 years, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Lisa McSparen Hawk, in 2015; three brothers: Douglas, Dennis, and David; an infant sister, Diana; a son-in-law, Tom Hillman, and a nephew, Douglas McSparen.

Funeral Services for Donald will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel, with Pastor Jon Nelson of Central Church officiating. Burial will be in Forest Cemetery with Military Honors by the Oskaloosa Honor Guard. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m., Tuesday; the family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Oskaloosa Honor Guard.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

The family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m.

Funeral Service

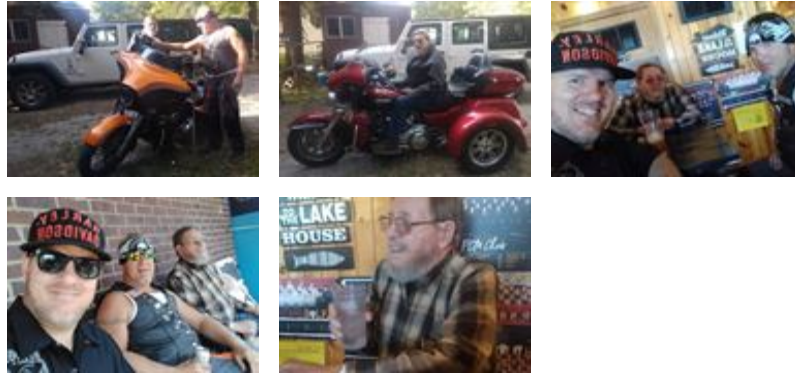
AUG 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ 67 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - August 05, 2024 at 06:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Donald McSparen.



August 05, 2024 at 12:09 PM



“ *Linda Williams* lit a candle in memory of Donald McSparen



Linda Williams - August 03, 2024 at 04:06 PM

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“ Chuck Ferree lit a candle in memory of Donald McSparen



Chuck Ferree - August 02, 2024 at 08:49 PM

HZ

“ Don and I were not always on the same page but regardless of our differences he always offered a warm hug, friendly smile, and a can of Coke at the kitchen table. I have many memories of Don, his stories, and the things he would do or say. I remember coming to the house with the kids and Don would be in the kitchen cleaning coins because he believed a cleaner coin made for a better slot performance at the casino. If Don wasn't in the kitchen, you could find him on the front porch smoking his cigar while watching westerns on the TV. He'd gladly show you his collections of Navy memorabilia and you could be sure to hear a story while doing it. To Donnie, Travis, Michelle, and "Aunt Deb", may God be with you and provide you with all that you need to get through this painful and difficult time.

Heather Zolecki - August 02, 2024 at 07:41 PM