



Donald L Lundgren

August 4, 1928 - September 16, 2020

Princeton - Donald Lee "Red" Lundgren, 92, #1 Grandpa, Old Farmer and Sugar Cookie Chef, passed away September 16, 2020 after a brief illness. Red was born August 4, 1928 to Alvin and Margaret Lundgren outside of Arlington, IL.

He attended schools at Berlin Center and Malden. After a disagreement with his principal at Malden High School when he was in 10th grade, Red was asked not to return to school. Before being drafted into the Army in 1952, he worked on the family farm and hired himself out as a farmhand. Red met the love of his life, Elsie Mae Fiste, in 1946, when he was out riding his Indian motorcycle. After taking her for a 2 hour ride, he returned to her house to find her angry parents waiting for them. He then found out Elsie was only 15 and not old enough to date. Red told her that he would be back to see her when she was 16. When she turned 16, Elsie let him know and they were together for the rest of their lives. Red and Elsie were married on February 18, 1951 and celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary months before Elsie passed away on April 25, 2012.

In 1952, Uncle Sam called Don to enlist for the Korean War. He started serving as an auto mechanic but soon transferred into radar. As a radar operator, the shack he worked in took fire every night so he requested a transfer. His commanding officer said OK but this was his final move and they

sent him to be a cook. And there he stayed, developing his famous sugar cookie recipe he made by the garbage can full!

When the farming economy tanked in the late 1960s, Red drove semis hauling cement for Schwerman Trucking Company out of Oglesby, IL. He often told his children while driving on Interstate 80 that he hauled the cement to build the interstate across Illinois. When the new J&L Steel plant was being built in Hennepin, IL, he quit trucking and took a job as a crane operator. He kept that job until he retired in the late 1980s.

While his family was growing up, he and Elsie would load the kids into their various campers and travel across the United States. They visited hundreds of State and National Parks, battlefields and historic sites, planting the traveling bug in their children. Now even his grandchildren carry out the tradition. After retirement, Red and Elsie expanded their travels to include Europe. They even drove the Alaskan Highway all the way to the Arctic Circle. The many years they spent as Good Sams Club members were filled with adventures traveling with new and old friends.

Red's greatest joys were Elsie and his family. He never needed an excuse for a cookout or get together. He loved making funny pancakes and sugar cookies for his grandchildren. It wasn't easy, but his granddaughters did manage to get his Army sugar cookie recipe from him, converting "some of this and that" into cups and tablespoons. The famous recipe lives on!

Red is survived by his four children Lori (Tim) Arbet, Sherrard, IL; Amy (Robert) Gorman, Broomfield, CO; Wendy (David) Mussche, Wyanet, IL, John (Lisa) Lundgren, Zearing, IL and fourth daughter Laura Martin, Chicago, IL.

He is also survived by his grandchildren Stephanie (John) Spraggon, Abby and Eric (Jerrielyn) Arbet, Joshua (Jessica), Luke (Alyse) and Zachary

Gorman, Rachel (Tyler Bickett) and Matthew (Sarah) Denton, Emma Mussche, Tiffany (Travis) Grawe, Meghan (Chris Flowers) Mussche, James (Amber) and Halliegh (Max Ehley) Lundgren and great-grandchildren Zoey, Chris, Hailey, Kashius, Talon, Tatum, Ellie and Alexander.

Due to COVID restrictions, private services for family only will be held Sunday, September 20, 2020 at Norberg Memorial Home. Burial services will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020 at Oakland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family has asked that memorials may be left to the Bureau County Food Pantry, Princeton, IL.

Online condolences and memorials may be left at www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Previous Events

Burial Service

SEP 25 (CT)

Oakland Cemetery

Tribute Wall

PG

“ i was saddened to learn of the death of your father, Don Lundgren. I met your mom and dad in about 2003 when my mom and dad Paul and Ona Andersen and my daughter Deb Cushman and I decided to update Mom and Dad's Andersen book "Nis to Now", In 2003 we started the process of getting information. We had very little info on your dad's side of the family " Hans". We contacted you parents and your mom loaned us her scrapbook which provided us with so much information on the Hans Andersen family. We published our book After Nis to Now in 2007. They then attended a few of our Andersen reunions . I have always been so grateful to have gotten to know them. Our sympathy to all of you. Pat Glafka Sterling,IL

Patti J Glafka - September 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM

JO

“ Sorry to hear of Donald's passing. I enjoyed our many conversations at the Veteran's Home and the many stories he shared of his life. He befriended my Uncle and I was fortunate enough to know him through this friendship. Please accept our sympathy.
Anthony Samolinski and Joanne(niece)

Joanne - September 21, 2020 at 12:13 PM

EA

“ Eileen Anderson lit a candle in memory of Donald L Lundgren



Eileen Anderson - September 20, 2020 at 03:41 AM

EA

“ Sending my Deepest Sympathy to the family at this sad time. Used to really enjoy hearing about the many adventures they shared back in the day. They were truly a joy... May they both RIP together now.

Eileen Anderson - September 20, 2020 at 03:39 AM

BB

“ Don was a great neighbor-I loved listening to all of his stories!! My deepest sympathy to his wonderful family -he loved you all so much but I smile thinking of him now with his sweet Elsie!! Love Betty

Betty Bassetti - September 19, 2020 at 10:14 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald L Lundgren.



September 19, 2020 at 08:48 PM

DW

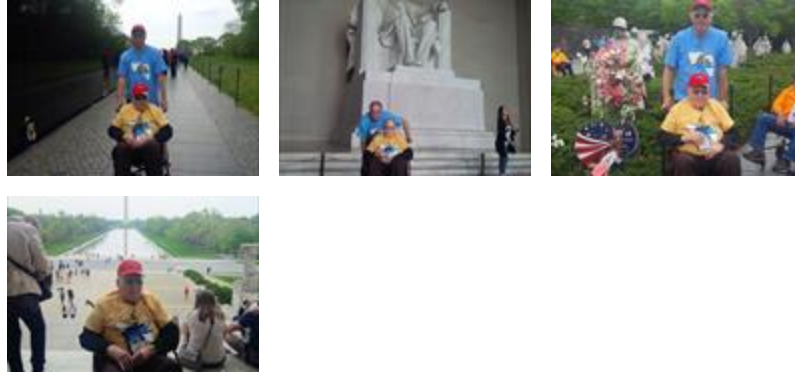
“ Doug And Pat Wiggim lit a candle in memory of Donald L Lundgren



Doug and Pat Wiggim - September 19, 2020 at 05:29 PM

BL

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Lundgren in April of 2015 when he came to Washington D.C. on the Honor Flight. Rest in Peace.



Beverly Lemon - September 19, 2020 at 04:38 PM

SL

“ I got the pleasures of meeting and taking care of Don at liberty village. that's where are friendship started letting him con me into letting him take showers every morning.when he left liberty and went to the VA home our friendship still carried on and me and my boyfriend had the pleasure of picking him up and getting him out of jail as he would call it and take him out to eat.he was a very kind loving man and will be missed love you red rip your friend suanne leschewski

suanne leschewski - September 19, 2020 at 12:56 PM

DF

Thank you Sue (as Dad called you :-) Dad loved spending time with you and Roger. Our deepest thank you for sharing your time with him and making his days so much happier!

Don's Family - September 29, 2020 at 09:50 PM

PP

“ Wendy, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My condolences to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Pam Parker - September 19, 2020 at 08:19 AM

LS

“ Laureen Schaill lit a candle in memory of Donald L Lundgren



Laureen Schaill - September 18, 2020 at 09:00 PM

LS

My deepest sympathy to the family. I so enjoyed taking care and getting to know your Dad. God Bless

Laureen Schaill - September 18, 2020 at 09:04 PM

DF

Thank you Laureen for your thoughts and kindness in caring for Dad. He always had good and kind words for everyone who cared for him.

Don's Family - September 29, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald L Lundgren.



September 18, 2020 at 08:10 PM

GS

“ I am very sorry for your loss. When I would go see Dad, Charles Knudsen, at the VA Home, Don would usually come over and say Hello, as they had become good friends! Missed seeing Don, after my Dad passed away, which I know was hard on Don, too. And even though we miss them terribly, I am sure they both love where they are, now!

Gail Sanderson - September 18, 2020 at 08:48 AM

DF

Thank you Gail for the kind words and memories of Dad. He spoke of your Dad often as they did become good friends. They are together again. Thank you for sharing time with him and making his days brighter.

Don's Family - September 29, 2020 at 09:28 PM

KM

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Don used to kid my husband Don that they were both Donnie Lee. I knew his wife from genealogy. Very nice people. Sending condolences and prayers. Kathy Mueller

Kathleen Mueller - September 17, 2020 at 08:51 PM

DF

Thank you Kathy for your kind words and prayers. Dad mentioned many times his visiting with " the other Donnie Lee". We miss him very much.

Don's Family - September 29, 2020 at 09:23 PM

TS

“ Red was just a nice person. I always “looked up” to him in the crane at LTV. A good guy to work with.

Terry Sledgister - September 17, 2020 at 08:13 PM