



Donald Arthur Garner

August 13, 1935 - January 20, 2019

Donald “Duke” Garner, 83, of Toledo passed away on January 20, 2019. Several years before his death he took some time to compose the following things that he wanted to share with his friends and family.

He was born on August 13, 1935, in Toledo, and retired in 1997 from the Air Force as an Aerospace General Engineer. His time in the Air Force (1984–1997) was especially rewarding as he learned new skills and knowledge. As a part of this Don attended several different institutions and Universities and earned several associate general engineering discipline degrees. While at the Air Force, he received over 20 action and implementation awards, 9 commendations and 9 Superior Air Force Performance Awards, and the Sacramento base Humanitarian of the Year award. Don’s final Air Force assignment was out of Warner Robbins, Georgia as a member of the START treaty inspection team, which was responsible for mutual, onsite weapon inspections in Russia and within the United States.

Throughout the years, Don’s employment required extensive traveling, much of which was in the oil fields of Mexico and Central America. He worked as a project engineer with Pemex in the Mexican and Central American oil fields for Penske Power Systems, (1979-1985) and held multiple supervisory and managerial positions at Interlake Steel Inc., (1957-1978, Chicago, Erie and Toledo). Don loved the challenge of working with people of different cultures and languages.

From 1952 thru 1984, Don worked every Memorial Day Race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, learning all aspects of the race operation. During the period, in which the sanctioning body for Indy Car racing switched from USAC to CART, Don was instrumental in crafting safety and technical policies and formulating a rule book for the CART organization.

Don graduated from Libbey High School, where he lettered in all three major varsity sports, was Captain of two teams that won city championships, and was a member of a third city championship team. He was also a member of the national honor society and a class officer. Don was pro-active on civil rights issues mostly involving minority employment and advancement rights issues. He was always most satisfied when amicably resolving special one on one problems with emotional involvement. After high

school, Don earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering, with an aeronautical option at The University of Toledo, where he also lettered in baseball, and was a member of the Varsity "T" Club.

Don always enjoyed sports and played semi-pro baseball and basketball and coached youth football, basketball, and baseball, in Erie, Pa., Chicago, Ill., and Sacramento. He was very active in the sports of skiing, bowling (winning team championships and the 1962 Erie, Pa. singles championship with a 734 series), basketball, softball, hockey, canoeing and golf.

In his later years, Don enjoyed playing poker, participating in charity tournaments all over the US, until ill health forced him to discontinue traveling.

He is survived by his first wife, Marcia Bruggeman (his high school sweetheart), their children, Mark and his wife Linda Garner of Columbus, Dirk and wife Jen Garner of San Francisco, daughter Pamela Hillerström of Uddevalla, Sweden; in addition by grandchildren Nathan Stotler of Uddevalla, Sweden, Mitchell Garner of Cincinnati, Joshua Salyer of Loveland, and Emily and Blake Garner of San Francisco. He is also survived by previous wives Magali (Ayala Miranda) of Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and Chin Chiu Mullins of Sacramento. Don was preceded in death by his parents, Don and Eleanor Garner, his sister Nancy Meiring, and his sweet, beloved dog, Tiger, but has been succeeded by his dear loving dog Tigger.

Per Don's request, there will be no visitation. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Comments



“ My condolences to the family of Duke Garner. My mom and dad, Miner and Peg Henningsen, were very good friends of Don and Eleanor Garner. My brother, Dick Henningsen, was born 10 days before Duke and they attended Libbey together. I remember the Garner house on Glendale...there was a wishing well in the front yard. His dad was very much into racing, so I wasn't surprised to read Duke's involvement in racing. I was 14 years younger than my brother, so I'm sure the last time Duke saw me, I was still pretty little.

Again, I'm very sorry for your loss..

Sue Henningsen Hamen

PS... he looks very much like his mom in this picture. His parents were wonderful, fun-loving people.

sue Hamen - January 28, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ Thank you Sue. I was only 4 years old when they sold the house on Glendale but I remember the wishing well fondly!

Dirk Garner - June 03, 2019 at 05:33 PM



“ To the Garner Family:
Duke and I were very good friends at Libbey and UT. We shared the same classes and many of the athletic events. I was even an usher in his wedding.
My wire Sherri and I send our deepest sympathy to you all. You should be proud of Duke's accomplishments.
Paul and Sherri Leininger

Paul Leininger - January 26, 2019 at 11:49 AM



“ Dear Family,
What an accomplished man he was. You must be very proud. Our deepest Sympathy and prayers for you all.
Love, Shelly and Ron York

Shelly York - January 26, 2019 at 01:30 PM



“ Hi Paul. Thank you. We are planning a memorial service for Dad June 18th or 19th at Mud Hens game. Please let me know if interested in attending and how to get in touch.

Dirk Garner - January 27, 2019 at 11:30 AM



“ Garner Family,

Sorry to hear of the loss of your of your Father. Mr "G" as we called him, was our basketball coach, for three years. He taught us a lot about the game and life. He will be missed.
Tim Kranz

Timothy G Kranz - January 27, 2019 at 12:46 PM