



## Donald James Yark

August 29, 1921 - November 21, 2019

Donald James Yark passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Ohio Living Swan Creek in Toledo after a brief illness. He was 98.

Don was a lifelong Toledo area resident, born to Herbert and Mabel Yark on August 29, 1921. He lived a long and colorful life, caring for his family, including his dear mother who lived to the age of 104. Growing up in the hardscrabble days of the Great Depression, Don instilled values of hard work, pride and service in his children who, among their varied accomplishments, went on to build Northwest Ohio's largest automotive group.

A graduate of both DeVilbiss High School and the University of Toledo, Don enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 and served primarily in India during World War II.

In 1944, Don married the love of his life, Marilyn Shuey and settled in the Old Orchard neighborhood where they lived for many years with their three children.

He spent his career in civil engineering consulting for Finkbeiner, Pettis & Strout, and was later the Director of Public Utilities for the City of Toledo. Later, he founded DJY and Associates Custom Builders, designing family residences including a home for Marilyn and himself in Sylvania Township. In

semi-retirement, he took up a second residence in Sandusky, which became a cherished family outpost on the shores of Lake Erie.

Don was an avid baker, breads in particular and was also known for his delicious caramels which he baked well into his 90s. He pursued all kinds of projects from making personalized birthday cards to tinkering with computers. He was a playful presence on email with his friends and family. In later years, he took up landscape painting to much enjoyment.

Among the various organizations to which Don was a member were the Royal Order of Jesters, and Zenobia Shriners. He was also a 32nd degree member of the Masons.

Don is survived by his children Lynn (Dick) Baker; John (Karen) Yark; daughter-in-law, Susan Poll; and grandchildren Scott Baker, Laura Wilkinson, D.J. Yark, Dan Yark, Bill Yark, Emily Reny, Jack Yark, Jamie Yark, Jay Yark, Jennifer Beaudoin and Kim Nelson; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marilyn; son, Jim; granddaughter, Shelly Butler; and siblings Herbert Jr. and Marjorie.

A private family celebration of Don's life will be held at a later date. The family suggests tributes be made to the Alzheimer's Association of Northwest Ohio or Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com)

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ Prayers to the family. I knew Don through Zenobia Shriner's Royal Order of Jesters. I always enjoyed being with him. He was a true gentleman.

*Bernie Welniak*

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**Bernie Welniak** - December 05, 2019 at 11:59 AM

GS

“ Don was a wonderful cousin who always provided a well needed laugh be it in person or via e-mails. When we talked over the phone, he would get “mad” at me because I was ten years younger than him. My deepest sympathies to all on the loss of this special man who was always there when needed to provide a caring and helping hand.

*Donna Schwenning*

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**Gayle Brazeau for Donna Schwenning** - December 02, 2019 at 06:58 AM

SA

“ I did a lot of growing up during all those Old Orchard and DeVilbiss years (and through college) with Don right by our side. Lynn was my best friend and I spent countless hours at their home laughing and admiring such “young” parents!! Don was always quick witted and so friendly to all the kids, and we respected how he would be the life of a gathering, in such a humble endearing way. My love and condolences to all.

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**Sally Rittenhouse Allison** - December 02, 2019 at 02:00 AM

LB

“ *Sending love and prayers to all of the family. It was an honor to know him and to be his friend and advisor for so many years. I will miss his sense of humor and mischievous laugh!*  
*Don loved his family so much, and Lynn he was so grateful for your detail to his care. I will always have a special place in my heart for the entire Yark family.*  
*May God bless all of you!*  
*Lesia Marino-Brolinson*

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**Lesia Brolinson** - December 01, 2019 at 07:02 PM

JM

“ *Loving thought and prayers for the entire Yark family.*  
*Jeff Masney and Cindy Brinkman*

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**Jeff Masney** - December 01, 2019 at 08:32 AM