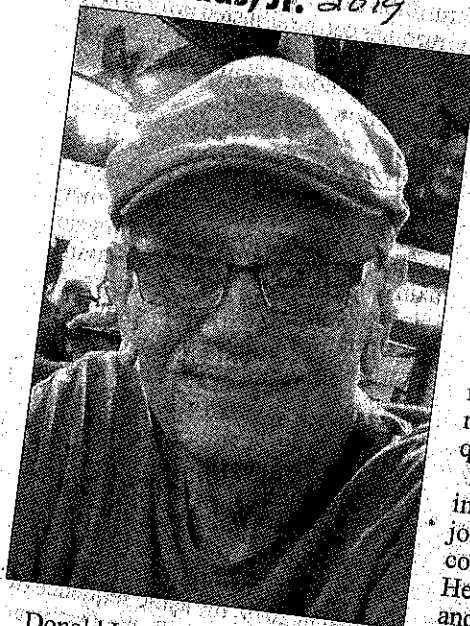


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2019

## Donald Leroy Osterhaus, Jr.



Donald Leroy Osterhaus, Jr., 67, of Grundy Center and formerly of Grinnell, died Sept. 22, 2019, at Grundy County Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family.

A visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 27, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Engelkes-Chapel in Grundy Center. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Gabriel Catholic Church in rural Reinbeck with Father David G. Kucera officiating. Inurnment will take place at a later date. Memorials may be directed to the family to start an Academic Decathlon scholarship at a later time in memory of Don. Abels Funeral and Cremation Service, Engelkes-Chapel is taking care of Don and his family. Online messages of condolences may be made at [www.abelsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.abelsfuneralhomes.com).

He was born in Dubuque on March 14, 1952, to Donald, Sr. and Nancy Cavanaugh Osterhaus. He attended Wahlert High School, and went on to

earn degrees in English and humanities with a minor in French through the University of Northern Iowa. He later returned to earn his Masters degree in library science.

Don and Cheryl met in 1970 and were married four years later, on June 15, 1974, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell. The Osterhauses had three children, and lived and worked in Grinnell, Gilbertville, and Independence, before settling in Grundy Center. There, Don taught, curated and grew the high school and middle school library collection, and coached academic events including Academic Decathlon, Environment, Knowledge Master Open, and quiz bowls.

He was known for his love of reading and enjoyment of cinema. He joined others for trivia and scholarly competitions, and was fond of games. He cultivated an appreciation of culture and languages. He enjoyed nature—hiking, camping, canoe trips, and sighting wildlife, especially birds. He shared his talents for many years as a church cantor and connected with many over love of music, especially classic rock. He directed plays at St. John's High School in Independence, and his own acting talents were featured on stage at Grundy Center High School and the Waterloo Community Playhouse. As a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, he celebrated in 2016 with many other die-hards when their beloved team won the World Series. His love of travel took him across this country from one coast to the other, and then to Europe including France, Italy, Ireland, Scotland, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and Spain.

Don is survived by his wife, Cheryl; sons Geoffrey and Adam and daughter Ellen; two grandchildren; his mother Nancy; his brother Greg; and other relations.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Osterhaus, Sr.