

FORMER BROOKLYN RESIDENT

PCCR

Donald Edward Rhodes

12-9-2015



Donald Edward Rhodes of Des Moines, Iowa, died Tuesday, November 4th, 2015. A

celebration of life was held on Nov. 14, 2015.

Donald was born on Aug. 1, 1941 in Perry, Iowa to Charles Edward Rhodes and Doris Lorraine Rhodes. He attended high school at BGM in Brooklyn, Iowa. He played for the BGM Bears football team, as well as participating in the high school drama club. After graduating in 1960, Don moved to Des Moines, Iowa, and married his high school sweetheart Karen Dieterich in 1961.

In his younger years, he enjoyed motorcycle

hill climbing and stock car racing. He also loved to camp, fish and water-ski on Red Rock Lake with his family and friends.

Don, or "Donny", as they knew him in the business, was a hard worker. He spent his entire career in the Des Moines area, specializing in auto and auto part sales. He worked at Autorama, Hubcap Haven, Automotive Wholesale, and most recently Swift Auto Parts. Don could work a deal like nobody's business.

In his semi-retirement years, Don enjoyed fishing with his sisters, as well as teaching his five grandchildren to fish. He enjoyed traveling to Oregon, Hawaii and Florida to visit his oldest daughter, son-in-law and grandkids, and parasailed on Maui when he was 70 years old.

He had dreams of spending his future retirement years on an acreage with his youngest daughter, and even bought an antique tractor in anticipation of the "next chapter". He loved mowing his one-acre lawn and fixing up old cars.

He fought cancer like a prize fighter, first defeating prostate cancer, and most recently kicking colon cancer square in the teeth. He struggled with other health issues, including COPD, but nothing kept him down for long. He made some good friends at his weekly support classes at the hospital.

Don will be remembered for so many things, including his love of old cars, black pepper, good whiskey, his old recliner, and a good Patron margarita.

Don could curse like a sailor, but underneath that rough facade was a man with a heart of gold. He was adored by his daughters and grandchildren, the youngest who called him "Grampy". His favorite expression was "Well, I'll be darned!" We will never stop loving him and remembering him. He is now our guardian angel, and has already been hard at work.

Don is survived by his daughters, Dawn Ellis of Maine and Randi Swink of Iowa, son-in-law Rick Ellis of Maine, grandchildren Cheyenne, Masen, Maddox, Jordan and Jessi, four sisters, Joyce Van Renterghem and Doris Bunn of Brooklyn, Billie Jo Henry of Deep River, and Edna Werneburg of Illinois, and "grand dog", Timber.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the Dale Swift Philanthropic Fund for support of families impacted by cancer.