



## Don Earl Pennington

October 11, 1937 - August 9, 2024

Don Earl Pennington, Age 86, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was called home to heaven on Friday, August 9, 2024. Born on October 11, 1937, in Hamilton, Ohio, Don was the cherished son of Earl and Flora (Hurst) Pennington. His parents instilled in him the values of honesty, respect, hard work, and a deep faith in God, principles that guided him throughout his life.

Don's journey in education was a testament to his dedication and perseverance. He graduated from New Ross High School, New Ross, IN, and attended Purdue University, receiving a B.S. in Agricultural Education in May 1959. Don began his career as a high school teacher in southeastern Indiana. He pursued further education, balancing his teaching career with evening and weekend classes, to earn a master's degree in School Administration from Purdue University, which he completed in January 1967.

His commitment to improving education led him to roles within the Indiana Department of Education as Director of the State Board for Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education, and Assistant Superintendent of Washington Township Schools, Indianapolis, IN. After earning his Doctorate in Education in 1977 from Indiana University, Don served as a Superintendent of Schools for school districts in Freeport, IL, Danville, IL, and MSD of Warren Township, Indianapolis, IN. After retiring, Don spent several years working with an architectural firm which designed and built schools throughout the Midwest. Don's impact extended beyond his professional life. He was known for his

unwavering support of organizations including Purdue FarmHouse Fraternity, Warren Arts and Education Foundation, Marion County Fair, and the Indianapolis East Rotary Club, which reflected his deep commitment to serving the communities in which he lived and worked.

Don's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Rose Marie (Stallsmith), whom he married on January 23, 1960. Their 54-year marriage was a testament to their deep love and partnership. Rose Marie, who preceded him in death in 2014, was his steadfast supporter and confidant, and together they created a nurturing and loving home.

Don was a loving father to his three daughters, Donna Ryan (Doug Giaudrone), Diane (John) Schultz, and Dana (Jeff) Nelson. With his remarkable sense of humor and wit, Don often shared that being a dad to three girls taught him patience, understanding, and flexibility. His unwavering support and love were a constant source of strength and guidance throughout their lives.

His devotion extended to his grandchildren, Megan (Kyle) Hamann, Brittney (A.J.) Silkworth, Hannah (Brett) McClelland, Grant Schultz, Maria Schultz, Brody Ryan, Cameron Nelson, and Alaina Nelson, all who were the light of his life. Don loved his grandchildren immensely, was delighted in their accomplishments, and experienced great joy in spending time with them. His love for his four great-grandchildren, Adler and Maeve Hamann, and Corbin and Owen Silkworth, also brought him tremendous happiness.

Don's passion for travel was another way he embraced life, creating unforgettable memories with his family. From exploring Japan, Alaska, and Hawaii with Rose Marie to enjoying many Christmas vacations, especially Costa Rica, with his daughters and their families, he cherished every adventure and the opportunity to create lasting memories with family and friends.

Don's legacy will be remembered by all who knew him. Don is also survived by his sister-in-law, June (Paul) O'Brien; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his wife, parents, and sister, Joan

Garrard.

Visitation will be Friday, August 16, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of service at 10:00 a.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 East Washington Street. Burial will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the Masonic Cemetery in Van Buren, Indiana.

Memorials in memory of Don can be made to the Warren Arts and Education Foundation's Pennington Scholarship, 975 North Post Road, Indianapolis, IN 46219 [www.warrenfoundation.org](http://www.warrenfoundation.org) and/or Purdue FarmHouse Fraternity Foundation, P.O. Box 2644, West Lafayette, IN 47996. [www.shirleybrothers.com](http://www.shirleybrothers.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Van Buren Masonic Cemetery

3815 N 900 E  
Van Buren, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel  
9606 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
(317) 897-9606  
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

## Visitation

AUG 17. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel  
9606 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
(317) 897-9606  
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

## Funeral Service

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AUG 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel  
9606 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
(317) 897-9606  
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

## Graveside Service

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AUG 17. 1:00 PM (ET)

Van Buren Masonic Cemetery  
3815 N 900 E  
Van Buren, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ Divine Mercy Funeral Home planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Earl Pennington.

Divine Mercy Funeral Home - August 16, 2024 at 02:10 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don Earl Pennington.



August 16, 2024 at 02:10 PM



“ Stuart Mortuary Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Earl Pennington.

Stuart Mortuary Staff - August 16, 2024 at 12:13 PM



“ Stuart Mortuary Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Don Earl Pennington.



Stuart Mortuary Staff - August 16, 2024 at 12:13 PM

TL

“ *The Schallers and Lantz purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Don Earl Pennington.*



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**The Schallers and Lantz** - August 15, 2024 at 02:16 PM

WF

“ *Warren Arts and Education Foundation purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Don Earl Pennington.*



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**Warren Arts and Education Foundation** - August 14, 2024 at 10:37 PM

DG

“ *Don and Rose attended worship at Ridgeview Baptist Church (ABC) while Don served as superintendent in Danville, Illinois, Our four children were all students in the school district at the time, and Carol (my wife) was a teacher in the district. A Japanese girls school visited our community on two occasions, made possible through the school district. It was a great experience, a great memory. We respected Don and appreciated his wisdom and leadership. Rev. Dave Garver*

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**David Garver** - August 14, 2024 at 06:25 PM

MB

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Brian Borders planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Earl Pennington.*

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**Mr. & Mrs. Brian Borders** - August 14, 2024 at 04:36 PM

MB

“ *Mr. & Mrs. Brian Borders purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Don Earl Pennington.*



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**Mr. & Mrs. Brian Borders** - August 14, 2024 at 04:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Earl Pennington.*



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August 14, 2024 at 03:55 PM

WF

“ *With Love, The Glancy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Earl Pennington.*

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**With Love, The Glancy Family** - August 14, 2024 at 01:21 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Don Earl Pennington.*



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August 14, 2024 at 01:21 PM



“ *Nora G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Earl Pennington.*

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**Nora G.** - August 13, 2024 at 11:26 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Don Earl Pennington.*



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August 13, 2024 at 11:26 AM