



Donald W. Bair

February 15, 1936 - February 2, 2025

Donald W. Bair

February 15, 1936 ~ February 2, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Donald W. Bair (Don), age 88, who passed away peacefully on February 2, 2025. Born on February 15, 1936, Don lived a life full of purpose, adventure, and unwavering love for his family and friends.

Don proudly served his country as a U.S. Army veteran, stationed in Korea just after the Korean War ended. After completing his service, Don went on to finish his education, graduating from Indiana University. He spent a fulfilling career in the insurance industry, ultimately retiring from Alexander & Alexander, where he formed lasting relationships and earned the respect and friendship of his colleagues.

Outside of his work, Don had a passion for collecting cars, a hobby that filled him with joy and allowed him to appreciate the artistry of automotive design. He also loved the outdoors, particularly boating and fishing in the waters of Lake Erie and Lake Michigan. Some of his happiest memories were made on the water, enjoying friends and libations.

Don was also a friend to many and cherished the company of those he knew. He was well known for his fun-loving spirit and his enjoyment of life's simplest pleasures-whether it was hosting stew cookouts, taking part in turkey shoots, or savoring a glass of good scotch. His warmth and infectious laughter will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of calling him a friend.

Two of Don's favorite places in the world were Beaver Island, MI, and the Kipawa River Lodge in Quebec. After retirement, Don fulfilled his dream of living in Northern Michigan, spending many years on Beaver Island. Later, he returned to Indianapolis, where he spent his final years close to family who brought him endless joy.

With an enduring love for his wife, Carol, whom he lost 28 years ago to cancer, Don's heart never stopped carrying her memory. Though she left his side too soon, she never left his heart. Now, we take comfort knowing they are reunited in heaven.

Don is survived by his children, Lisa Merrill (Ron) and Jon Bair (Victoria); his grandchildren, Meagan Merrill (Muhamed Becovic), Ryan Merrill (Melissa), Caitlyn Klatt (Nathan), Eric Bair (Elena), David Bair, Sean Murray, and Jacob Bair; as well as his great-grandchildren, Georgia, Bode, Emma, Aiden, Ella, and another on the way in May. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Carol Bair; his brothers, Robert and Richard; and his furry companion, Reggie.

Visitation will be Wednesday, February 12, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 1:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 East Washington Street. Immediately following there will be a celebration of Don's life from 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Indian Lake Country Club, 10502 East 75th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46236.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of his late wife, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Rest in peace, Don. We all love you so much.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

FEB 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

FEB 12. 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Indian Lake Country Club
10502 East 75th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46236

Tribute Wall

RH

“ Ryan Horstmeyer purchased the *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* for the family of Donald W. Bair.



Ryan Horstmeyer - February 10, 2025 at 10:06 AM

VB

“ Victoria B. purchased the *Pink Tribute Spray* for the family of Donald W. Bair.



Victoria B. - February 09, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald W. Bair.

February 07, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Donald W. Bair.



February 07, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donald W. Bair.



February 07, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald W. Bair.

February 07, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ Dana Mannix and gym family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald W. Bair.

Dana Mannix and gym family - February 07, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ Dana Mannix and gym family purchased the Pea ceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald W. Bair.



Dana Mannix and gym family - February 07, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald W. Bair.*



February 07, 2025 at 07:23 AM



“ *Don was a wonderful mentor and co-worker. I worked with him for a while at City Securities many years ago. Praying for his family and friends.*

*Cari Shields
Greenwood, IN*

Cari Shields - February 06, 2025 at 02:48 PM



“ *Don was a wonderful friend and co-worker. We were lucky to have him in our lives for over 35 years and we'll miss him but always cherish the wonderful memories he left us.*

*Denny & Pegi Flahault
Aiken, SC*

Denny & Pegi Flahault - February 06, 2025 at 12:07 PM



“ *Shoemake Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald W. Bair.*



Shoemake Family - February 06, 2025 at 09:27 AM

KM

“ *Best wishes to Jon and family. Don was a great guy and is fondly remembered on Beaver Island. Thinking of you Eric and David. Kitty and Mike Green*

Kathleen McNamara - February 06, 2025 at 09:01 AM

SS

“ *Don has been my friend and mentor for the past 51 years. I met him on the salmon river in Idaho when I was a 24 year old river guide. He gave me the opportunity of the lifetime when he invited me to the property he owned on the Kipawa River in Quebec Canada. He set me up as manager and eventually sold the property to my wife and I. That beautiful place has been our home for the past 50 years. Don Bair has become a legendary figure in our family lore. My five daughters remember him like a favorite uncle. And my 20 grandchildren, remember him as the man who gave us the opportunity to spend the past 50 years in one of the most beautiful places on earth. His kindness and generosity will not be forgotten. His smile and laughter will remain in our hearts forever. Love and prayers to Don and the entire Bair family. Scott And Pat Sorensen.*

Scott Sorensen - February 05, 2025 at 08:57 PM

RL

“ N All my memories of Don was with Judy who he cared for her deeply but, Carol was his love and Judy and her girls were really close to Don.

My favorite story was him in the family room porch and did not like a nasty bird on the island and thought the window was down on the outside door and took aim with his trusty rifle and tried to shoot that bird but all he accomplished was to shoot out the window.

We all spent time with Don on the boat and I would even help Judy clean it.

Rest in peace our dear friend. Rob and I will miss your since of humor and your laughter. 🙏💕🙏💕🙏

Rob & Sandy Latimer - February 05, 2025 at 07:59 PM

BC

“ Don was one of the Best. Spent lots of time with him and Judy on Beaver Island. We had many good times together. Rest in Peace Dear Friend. Gary and Bev.

Beverly and Gary Cantwell - February 05, 2025 at 06:58 PM