



John "Don" Kennedy

November 30, 1930 - July 18, 2020

John "Don" Kennedy, 89, of McCordsville, passed away July 18, 2020. He was born November 30, 1930 in Bloomington, IN, to the late John William and MaryEmma Kennedy. Don proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University where he was on the Wrestling Team; and his Masters Degree from Ball State University and University of Arizona. Don married Joan Smith, and began his career in education at Mt. Comfort High School and later moved to Warren Township School Corporation. He was the Assistant Principal for Creston Middle School for 11 years, and then a Chemistry teacher & Wrestling Coach for Warren Central High School, retiring after 30 years of service. Don was a former member of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church and a current member of Brookville Road Community Church where he was an Elder.

Visitation will be Sunday, August 2, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service at 5:00 p.m. at Wilkinson Church of Christ, 7293 SR 109, Wilkinson, IN 46186. MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Joan Kennedy; children, Shirley A. (Tony) Thacker, Diane M. Sanford, David B. (Julie) Kennedy, Daniel R. (Angi) Kennedy and Matthew S. (Lisa) Kennedy; brother, Joe Kennedy; 14 grandchildren; and 36 great-grandchildren. A daughter, Karen Kennedy; a son-in-law, Brian Sanford; a great-grandson, Jace Sweet; and two brothers, Edwin and Russell Kennedy, preceded him in death.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Brookville Road Community Church-Boundless. Final care and arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Wilkinson Church of Christ
7293 SR 109
Wilkinson, IN 46186

Funeral Service

AUG 2. 5:00 PM (ET)

Wilkinson Church of Christ
7293 SR 109
Wilkinson, IN 46186

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *Mr Kennedy was a difference maker in the the lives of the students and staff in Warren Township.
We are all better for having known him.*

May God Bless all.

Tony Burchett - August 02, 2020 at 07:40 AM

TN

“ *I had great respect for Don and he will be missed. I first met Don at Mt Comfort Church and we had similar interest in agriculture and the county planning commission. We also had a common friend of Marty Haymaker. Marty was close to Don and his wife. We helped her with transportation and she always talked about Don. I am proud that I knew Don.*

Tom Nigh - August 01, 2020 at 09:50 AM

TF

“ *The Ferbrache Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of John "Don" Kennedy.*



The Ferbrache Family - July 31, 2020 at 03:51 PM

JH

“ *Joan Sparks Hannon lit a candle in memory of John "Don" Kennedy*



joan Sparks Hannon - July 29, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JO

“ *Don always celebrated life here on earth. I can only imagine his smiling face and laughter in heaven. He was a great man of faith and action for God. His life was a daily testimony to Jesus.*

jonie - July 27, 2020 at 08:38 AM

LF

“ *Shirley and family. Please know you are in my prayers. I remember spending many days in your home when we were kids and your parents were always so welcoming. Love, Leslie Coombs Fisher*

Leslie C Fisher - July 24, 2020 at 05:24 PM

LP

“ *What a great man and life to celebrate! I remember him as always joyful. I love his family, sending prayers for comfort!*

Linda Petty - July 24, 2020 at 11:56 AM

KI

“ I have a couple memories of our families. When we were small every New Year’s Eve we would get together to play cards. The grown ups were in the kitchen & the kids were in the living room. Eric, Karen, Shirley & me would do our best to play cards just like the grownups. We would eat snacks, laugh and have a good o’l time. The other memory I have is I got to shear a sheep. It was dad, Don, Danny, Andy @ me. Don had the sheep sittin on its butt & holding it with his legs and I was gonna shear his belly. I made 1-2 cuts and he kicked me. And that was the end of my sheep shearing career. Although I will have to say after I got done tying the wool into a bale I had the softest hands around. Good memories. :)

KimSpark - July 23, 2020 at 06:02 PM

PM

“ John or Don was a really special teacher. My husband Howard (Lenard) was his student in the 60 s in biology and Agriculture. He remembers Don was so proud when he finally got his first son he took the class to see him at his home. I remember him because he sheared our sheep and he let us watch and he encouraged us to join 4-H and he was our leader. Such a good man. My sister Jeanne (Dusick) had his wife for a teacher at Grassy Creek. So sorry for your loss ❤️🙏 Pattie Dusick McCarty

Pattie Dusick McCarty - July 23, 2020 at 02:22 PM

VM

“ We moved to Michigan when I was 7 years old, so I only have one memory of Don other than seeing him at church when we would come back to visit. We had a orphaned lamb that my mom raised in our bathtub. Dad took the whole family and the lamb over to Don's to be sheered. Of course the lamb protested loudly and us kids thought she was being injured. So she cried and we cried. Afterwards Dad and Don sat down under a shade tree with us and explained why it was necessary to get the wool off her and the other sheep. I remember Don as being a very kind man with a wonderful laugh who always seemed genuinely glad to see us. He will be missed by all of us.

Vickie Fentz Melson

Vickie Melson - July 23, 2020 at 12:45 PM

SW

“ I have great memories of my wrestling Coach :) I continued a coaching career and everything good about coaching I learned from his example, When dealing with athletes I think of Don often and know I would never been in the position I am now without his example in my life. I am sure he had no idea how many young men he affected.

Steve Williams - July 23, 2020 at 10:54 AM

KS

“ If there was ever a man to pattern your life after Don Kennedy was that man. He always knew how to handle every situation and did it with love. Love for your fellow man is what seperates you from everyone else. My family and the Kennedy family go back a long way and there were many memories over the years. But if there were one man you could count one to hold to his word that was Don. He will be missed. But his boys have inherited his special qualities. My condolences to all the family.

Kim Sparks - July 23, 2020 at 09:55 AM

LN

“ Thoughts and prayers for all of the family. Lots of special memories of Don. He always called me one of his girls as he would give me a hug each week. I remember he loved yellow roses as he brought me some one time when I was at home recovering from surgery. He and Joann came to my dad's funeral a few years back and he told me many times, including the last time I saw him, what a wonderful, impressive funeral it had been. We know God is happy to now have this loving faithful servant with him but we will miss seeing him every week.

Lynn and Jay Noel

Lynn Noel - July 23, 2020 at 07:48 AM

MM

“ I have ties with both Don and Joanne. He was my Chemistry teacher at Warren Central in 1965. He was a wonderful teacher who helped me get through that class. Joanne and I taught together for many years at Grassy Creek in Warren Township. Wonderful family!

Mary McClure - July 22, 2020 at 08:45 PM

BK

“ I was privileged to become to know Don and his sweet wife Joan, when they welcomed me in their home as a companion and help mate. He was a caring, God loving and people loving man. I'll miss his stories filled with wisdom. I'll also miss his phone calls, just to check on me and my granddaughter and always let us know he was praying for us and wanted to make sure we knew he loved us ! And we him/ them. I know I'll be seeing him again in Heaven ❤️

Bitra Khajenouri - July 22, 2020 at 08:34 PM

BB

“ I always remember when he was my Sunday School teacher at Mt. Comfort and a vital part of the church.

Becky White Brannon

Becky White Brannon - July 22, 2020 at 08:33 PM

CJ

“ I was fortunate enough to work with him in Warren schools. He always had the smile in the picture on his face. RIP In our prayers.
Ray Minton

C Ray Minton Jr - July 22, 2020 at 08:22 PM

DK

“ Our condolences to the Kennedy family, especially Dan and Angi and their children. We never knew Mr. Kennedy, but have admired and respected Dan and Angi for years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. *Rocky and Dorene*

Dorene Kenworthy - July 22, 2020 at 06:20 PM

TW

“ We loose another Father from our Mt. Comfort Village. Don would come down with tractor And clear my mail box from snow and would not take a penny. Don was one of the strongest men I knew. The world a a little less of a better place today.
God Bless the Kennedy Family.

tanya white - July 22, 2020 at 04:18 PM

TR

God bless the Kennedy family. Don came to see my dad often as he battled cancer. Prayers for all of the family. 🙏

Tracy Reising - July 22, 2020 at 07:06 PM

KC

Thoughts and prayers go out to all the Kennedy family. I have such fond memories of my uncle Don and his wonderful laugh. Blessings to you all

Kathy Cablish - July 23, 2020 at 07:18 AM

MA

*“ This family is like a second family to me & my family. Don has been there for me since my dad passed away 30 years ago this past May. Every time I saw him he would say “this hug is from your dad...I promised him I would look out for you “! Love him & this whole family!! Prayin for them all as the grieve & celebrate his Heavenly Birth!!
Marla Sparks Pace*



marla - July 22, 2020 at 03:42 PM

MR

*“ I was privileged to know and care for Don & Joann for 2 years in their home. Don Was a sweet and caring man,he always had a story to tell, one of the funny things I remember about him, was how he loved Sweet Corn
I am seeing signs every where, each time I see one, it reminds me of my sweet friend. He will be missed,I will also miss his prayers❤️*

Mary Roland - July 22, 2020 at 03:42 PM

GO

“ Every time I saw Don at church he would remind me, “you’re on my list, I’m praying for you and your wife.” Faithful Awesome man.

Gordon - July 22, 2020 at 02:49 PM

KB

“ To the wonderful Kennedy family. Don was such a community fixture and an all-round good guy. It was my pleasure to work with him throughout the years and, most recently, on the sale of his 300N property. He and Joanne raised a terrific family. For that, I know that you are all grateful. My sincere sympathy goes out to each of you.



Karen A. Beeson - July 22, 2020 at 02:25 PM

TK

“ So sorry for your loss. Loved the many fishing trips we took together. Tim Kennedy

Timothy Kennedy - July 22, 2020 at 01:36 PM

TK

“ So sorry for you all's loss. Uncle Don was one of a kind. First he was one of the Kennedy boys who made more funny stories to pass down than any boys I know. I loved his laugh and his huge hugs. I'm sure you all will miss him tremendously. I imagine him, Russ and Ed are having a great time in heaven. Loved Don and love you all.

Tamma Kennedy - July 22, 2020 at 01:35 PM

BA

I met Don when he was very young and he came to our place and sheared our sheep. His family, your family, carried on the tradition and he was very proud of all of you as you were of him., One of the good people in the sheep world and I an glad that our lives crossed paths. I will always remember him as a person of high ethics. My condolences to all of the family.

Bob Adams - July 22, 2020 at 08:27 PM

JH

My memories of Don goes way back to Mr Comfort HS. He way my Chemistry teacher. I struggled and he took the time to tutor me during study hall. He was also a great 4-H leader! He Was always there to help if needed. His laugh was infectious and always had a smile for you. I will truly miss him! Condolences to his large family! JoAn Sparks Hannon

Joan Sparks Hannon - July 29, 2020 at 02:18 PM