



Donald Dean Thomas

November 29, 1934 - April 18, 2020

Due to current restrictions, a private family service will be held, and a public celebration of life ceremony will be scheduled for a later date.

Memorials may be made to the family for future designation.

Donald D. Thomas was born November 29, 1934 in Blair, Nebraska to Jim and Opal Thomas. Don grew up in Tekamah, Nebraska, and as a young boy, enjoyed sports, specifically baseball, basketball, and track. Don held the school record for many years for the discus and shot put, but he excelled in baseball. He was signed by the S.t Louis Cardinals on June 9, 1953 as a pitcher.

Don married Mary Bowland in May 1955 (the day after pay day, he liked to recall). To this union, 4 children were born; Brian, Cindi, Donald, and Brad. Donald passed away after only a few short hours.

They raised their family in Omaha while Don owned and operated a Phillips 66 station until 1982. At that time, they decided to go home, and moved back to Tekamah, where they owned and operated the Duck Inn. After retiring, Don and Mary moved to Waterloo to be closer to their family.

Don enjoyed hunting, golfing, gardening, playing cards, and he coached his 2

sons in Little League for many years. He loved his Kansas City Royals and Big Red football, but he especially loved having his family come to visit.

Don never believed in doing anything halfway. He went big, or he went home.

Don went home to be with the Lord on April 18, 2020 at Lakeside Hospital in Omaha, at the age of 85.

Don is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary, his children; Brian (Annette) of Omaha, Cindi (Kieth) Hansen of Waterloo, and Brad (Mary Jo) of Ashland, 6 grandchildren; Justin, Natalie, and her fiancé Justin Hughes, Joe, Chris, Jade, and husband Kyle Larsen, and Brad Lee, and 9 great grandchildren; Jordan, Samuel, Karter, Ryder, Luca, Ella, Logan, Owen, and Vaughn, Don's brother James Eugene (Peggy) of Omaha, his sister Connie (John) Litel of Lancaster, CA, brother-in-law Leo Bowland of Tekamah, sisters-in-law Marge Sheets of Tekamah, and Dorothy Megrue of Lincoln, and many other family and friends.

Thank you for sharing his life.

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donald Dean Thomas*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - April 21, 2020 at 02:22 PM

TC

Great job Bradley and Natalie, you did your grandpa proud ❤️

Tom & Carol - April 22, 2020 at 07:14 PM

MA

Thank you for the opportunity to share in the service for Don. We loved the message and the beautiful music. Blessings to all. Love, Marge

Marge - April 22, 2020 at 07:43 PM

BS

My sincere condolences to the family of your dad, brother, husband, grandfather, uncle and friend. Great man who I was fortunate to meet years ago. Prayers and hugs for all of you.

Bob Sepulveda-California

bob seps - April 22, 2020 at 07:56 PM

MS

Beautiful service for a wonderful man. He will be missed.

Marilee Short - April 22, 2020 at 08:58 PM

DH

What an honor to share this tribute about Dan. Bradley your words were spoken through your heart! Your faith in the Lord spoke loud. God does heal all and his work is perfect! Dan's works of love shows in all of you and will continue to show as it continue to grow. God Bless your family. Dave & Judy

Dave & Judy Hamilton - May 20, 2020 at 03:11 AM



“ *Donald Dean Thomas*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

DH

“ *My heart and prayers go out to Mary and all the Thomas family. May you know God's comfort and strength. Thank you for letting me share in this service of memory to honor Don. Love, Darlene Hicks*

Darlene Hicks - April 23, 2020 at 01:58 PM

JJ

“ *Aunt Mary and cousins,
I remember so many fun things we all did as a family, Christmas at your house was one of them. We had so much fun. Uncle Don was a neat great guy with a great sense of humor. He will be missed.
Love
Roland, Jolene and family*

jolene Jack - April 22, 2020 at 06:53 PM

DS

“ Aunt Mary, Brian, Cindy and Brad,
Everyone knew his name was Don but never called him anything but Uncle Droop since he married Aunt Mary. What a great Uncle. He was always interested in what Pat & I were doing in life and always so much fun. I will never forget how hard he worked when he owned the gas station; he could do more in 5 minutes than some could do in an hour. Boy he loved to hunt and fish, I think he influenced my love for both a bunch.
What a great mentor and friend. You will be missed Uncle Droop!
Deepest Sympathy Aunt Mary and cousins.
Love,
Dick, Pat and Kids

Dick & Pat Sheets - April 22, 2020 at 03:46 PM

SH

“ My sincere condolences in the passing of Don. Both Don and Mary were good friends and I was saddened to learn of his passing. We both played baseball together and he will be greatly missed. His brother Hugh caught me for the Legion team and the town team. Don was a great athlete, father, grandfather and loved his family very much. He will always be remembered in Tekamah. God Bless.

Stan Hale

Stan Hale - April 22, 2020 at 09:23 AM

CL

“ Brother,

I was the 8 year old little sister who begged to play catch with her big brothers. Since you pitched, I was the catcher and I still say your threw almost as hard to me as you did Gene. I remember you would tell me " you throw like a girl" and Dad would say "what the hell do you think she is?"

I remember how proud Mom and Dad were when you signed with the Cardinals. Was pretty cool to have a big brother who was a pro baseball player and so much fun to watch you play in Omaha.

There were quite a few times when you had to drive to Tekamah to get me out of a jam with Dad during my teenage years.

I was so happy when you got married, I gained the sister I never had. Thanks Mary for loving and caring for my brother.

We shared so many good times with our kids over the years.

A lifetime of memories..we will all miss you.

Love your sister,

Connie

Connie Litel - April 22, 2020 at 12:35 AM

JB

“ *Our condolences to the entire family.*

Erik just told me last night that he had missed the smell of Don's tobacco.

Please let us know if you need anything.

Joy and Erik Baade

Joy Baade - April 21, 2020 at 02:28 PM

MC

“ *Mary and Family*

I'm very sorry to hear of Don's passing. I have fond memories of Don. I hope your memories will help you in this difficult time.

Merle Carson - April 21, 2020 at 08:53 AM

DC

“ *Mary and Family*

So sorry to hear of Don's passing, I have many fond memories of Don as sure you and family does well. Many of my memories involve the family picnics from many years ago.

Don was always a bit of sports hero of the family due to athletic achievements. Athletics aside, he was just a good man and he will be missed. Hopefully the many memories of Don will carry your family through this difficult time.

Kathy and Dale Carson

Elkhorn

Dale Carson - April 20, 2020 at 08:20 PM

CD

“ *Mary and Family,
Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your
husband/dad. May the Hope of the Resurrection and your faith
uphold and comfort you at this time and in the days ahead.*

*God's Blessings of Comfort and Peace,
Carmen and Denny Dau
Elkhorn, NE*

Carmen Dau - April 20, 2020 at 12:14 PM