



Donald E. Van Winkle

March 29, 1951 - March 5, 2020

Donald (Don) Elmer Van Winkle (68) of Monitor, WA, passed away March 5, 2020, following a sudden unexpected cardiac event. He died in the hospital in Wenatchee, Washington with his family gathered around him. Don was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

Born in Wenatchee, WA, in 1951 to Elmer and Mary Van Winkle, Don joined brothers Virgil and Jerry and sister Sharon. The family farm and home was on the banks of the Columbia River, South of Entiat. The building of Rocky Reach Dam caused the family farm to be relocated to Orondo. Don attended school in Entiat before Elmer and Mary moved their family to Monitor where Don attended Monitor Elementary School and then Cashmere schools, graduating from Cashmere High School in 1969. After graduation Don spent two years at Wenatchee Valley College.

Don met the love of his life, Pamela Ann Bauer, at the lake cabin of mutual friends in 1976. After making it clear to his partner-in-crime and life-long friend, Kelly Griffiths, that she was off limits, Don and Pam became inseparable and married six weeks later at the home of friends in East Wenatchee. When Don found his beloved bride he also gained a daughter, Fona. A short time later they welcomed a son, Beau, and the family was complete when another daughter, Shelby, was born. Together they raised their three children, living first in Orondo, later moving to East Wenatchee, and finally settling into the Van Winkle family home in Monitor.

Don dedicated much of his life to agriculture and held many positions in the

fruit industry throughout the years. In early 2017 he retired from Stemilt Growers where he had spent countless hours as a field man assisting farmers all around the Wenatchee Valley. For many of the growers he supported Don was more than just a knowledgeable voice guiding them through the intricacies of farming, he became a friend they could turn to for anything at any time. He had a strong work ethic and a big sense of humor. Don was most passionate about his family, his friends, his animals, and his work. Don tenderly cared for his elders while he joyfully participated in the lives of his grandchildren. Annual trips to Hale Napili on Maui with his wife Pam were a necessity in Don's strategy for living well and as a result they were blessed to be a part of what came to be known as the 'Marigold Group.' Don's true legacy is in the beautiful family he and his wife Pam raised together.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Mary Van Winkle, his brother Jerry Van Winkle, three infant siblings, Solomon Elmer, Shirley and Mary Ann. He was also preceded in death by his in-laws Clarence (Nance) and Gerry Bauer, a brother-in-law Patrick Bauer and a sister-in-law, Constance (Connie) Bauer Cooper.

Don is survived by his wife Pam Van Winkle; children: Fona Mathena (Josh), Beau Van Winkle (Kayla), Shelby Williams (Kevin); and grandchildren: Dillon, Dalton, and Demary Sugg, and Maya Mathena; Owen, Emersen, and Cooper Williams; Mary, Ellie, and Taylor Van Winkle. Don is also survived by his brother Virgil Van Winkle (Sue), sister Sharon (Ron) Harnden and sister-in-law Yvonne Van Winkle; and brother-in-law Kenneth Cooper, and brother-in-law Mike (Sandy) Bauer. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

No story about Don's life would be complete without mention of the bonds of brotherhood he felt with his closest friends—they know who they are. Much like the many hats Don wore—husband, father, grandfather, farmer, and animal lover to name a few—his friends came into his life at different times from different places—childhood, work, travel, or working out—but we know it was his great fortune to share many adventures and laughs and much love

over the years with those he counted in his blessings. Friends and family are grieving a good man gone too soon.

Because of dad's love of animals, if you so desire, the family would like to suggest donations in dad's name, in lieu of flowers, to either the Wenatchee Valley Humane Society or Alatheia Therapeutic Riding Center. Although we were planning to hold a memorial service on March 21, given the current public health climate and day-to-day changes our communities are facing we have decided to postpone to a later date.

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Pam, Fona, Beau, Shelby and families
We are sadden to hear of Don's passing. He was a nice man and
always treated us as we were friends. May his memory live on in
your hearts.

Doug Countryman - March 18, 2020 at 11:04 PM

ET

“ Good man in HS.

Ed Turner - March 18, 2020 at 04:54 PM

GA

“ Loved this guy great times and memories til we meet again. God
bless his family through these difficult times

gary andruss - March 17, 2020 at 09:08 PM

JM

“ My friend, brother. We spent a lot of time together in the high school
years. Lived together after I got out of the service over in Thorpe. A
good time? Yep a good time

Jon Morrison - March 17, 2020 at 06:37 PM

JM

“ Our hearts are broken to lose this wonderful man. Anyone that knew him loved him. Our world needs more like him and we feel so blessed to have been part of the "Marigold Family" on Maui with Don and Pam, as well as enjoying our friendship when we returned to our Washington homes. Don's love for Pam glowed and we all knew how he felt about her. Together they raised a strong and beautiful family and his love for them glowed too. Don made our world a better place with all that he gave. Don made a difference in us and we will never ever forget the friendship that we shared. We will forever be grateful that our lives crossed in this lifetime. Please know that our prayers will continue to flow your way in the coming months. Jack and Sharon McMillan

Jack and Sharon McMillan - March 14, 2020 at 07:40 PM

BB

“ We spent a lot of time growing up together. Doing our best to solve all the confounding mysteries of life; girls, muscles, cars, hair, that consume adolescence. “There is a time for every event under Heaven... mourning and weeping are blessed....and laughter will always follow.”

*I pray God's blessings for you and family.
We'll get together later...*

Brad & Karen Bossen

B Bossen - March 13, 2020 at 08:24 PM

GA

Loved this guy great times and memories. RIP see you later pal

gary andruss - March 17, 2020 at 09:06 PM

PC

Blessings & Prayers to Donnie's family ! He was a wonderful guy . He will be missed by all.....God Bless !

paula cody - March 20, 2020 at 05:21 PM

HL

*Pam, Fona, Beau, Shelby and families,
We are so sorry to learn of your loss of Don. We have memories of how we met- through rugby that Michael Bruce, Michael Lynch and Don played, which was as much fun for the spectators. Another memory that Mike recalled was Kyle and Beau both placing the same year at the State Wrestling tournament in their senior years. Through each event, each encounter we had through the years, we recall visions of Don with his smile and gentle humor and of Don and Pam together always. May God hold you all close in the palm of His hand in these days of absence and deep sorrow. We send our love, Mike and Harriet Lynch*

Harriet Lynch - March 29, 2020 at 07:36 PM