



Don E. Dowdy

August 10, 1935 - November 15, 2020

Don Eugene Dowdy of Carleton, Nebraska was born to Jesse LeRoy “Roy” and Leta Mae (Austin) Dowdy on August 10, 1935 at his home in rural Davenport, Nebraska. He departed this earthly life on November 15, 2020 at Bryan East in Lincoln, NE, at the age of 85 years, 3 months, and 5 days.

His mother, Leta, passed away in January of 1945 and on November 28, 1946, his father, Roy, married Ruth Hoffert of Carleton. Max and Don were overjoyed to once again be together as a family.

Don was baptized at the First Christian Church of Hastings in Hastings, Nebraska on September 8, 1946. He was later a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Carleton.

He attended Longfellow Grade School in Hastings and then moved to Carleton where he attended Summit District 58 in Fillmore County. He graduated from Carleton High School with the Class of 1953.

On August 26, 1958, he was united in marriage to Marla Wilhelms at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bruning, Nebraska. This union was blessed with the birth of their three children: David, Dianne, and Bradley.

Don was stationed in El Paso, Texas and served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960. In February 1960, he, Marla, and Dave returned to Nebraska. They made their home in rural Carleton; it was there that he started

to farm and later raise cattle.

He had a love for horses. He enjoyed riding them for leisure as well as using them to work the cattle. Over the years, he enjoyed the outdoor life, especially hunting and fishing. A favorite pastime was attending rodeos and watching them on television. He had a special interest in them as he was a participant in his younger years. He also looked forward to spending time with family, especially at Dave's cabin/pasture riding horses, fishing, and socializing.

Don was preceded in death by his mother, Leta, his parents, Roy and Ruth Dowdy, and his sister-in-law, Marjorie Dowdy.

Don is survived by his wife, Marla, of 62 years of Carleton; children Dave Dowdy and wife Renee of Fairbury, Nebraska, Dianne (Dowdy) Meyer and husband Dave of Ruskin, Nebraska, and Brad Dowdy and wife Kimberly of Shickley, Nebraska; grandchildren Kipp Dowdy of Burwell, Nebraska, Kelsi (Dowdy) Jelden and husband Joe of Bennington, Nebraska, Spencer Dowdy and wife Morgan of Carleton, Nebraska, Brittany Meyer and Blake of Auburn, Nebraska, Brianna (Meyer) Henry and husband Cuyler of Lincoln, Nebraska, Bethany (Meyer) Vitko and husband Tanner of Lincoln, Nebraska, and TJ Fulmer and wife Anna of Franklin, Tennessee; great-grandchildren Klarissa and Kale Dowdy, Harper and Kollins Jelden, Crew, Brynn, and Cohen Henry, Capri Vitko, and Finley Fulmer; brothers Max Dowdy, Dale Dowdy and wife Christy, John Dowdy and wife Doris; sister-in-law Gail (Wilhelms) Shive and husband Peter; nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A Memorial Service for Don was held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Carleton, Nebraska. Pastor Beth Roegner officiated the Memorial Service. Deb Polhlmann accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Amazing Grace." She also accompanied Ed Durst in the singing "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

A Committal of Ashes was held in the Carleton Cemetery following the Memorial Service with Military Honors provided by the Carleton American Legion Post 329 and the Nebraska Military Honor Guard.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the Zion Lutheran Parish Hall Project or the Carleton Saddle Club.

Cemetery Details

Carleton City Cemetery

Carleton, NE

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 28 (CT)

Carleton City Cemetery
Carleton, NE

Tribute Wall



“ 22 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 28, 2020 at 02:22 PM

MY

“ *Marla,*
We share your sorrow and will miss Don. Miss the old days of playing with Don in the men's softball games and the picnics at the Belvidere park. Who can forget the good times you stayed with us in Omaha: the chocolate bar incident, attending the AKSARBEN rodeo and attending our church.
Shirley and Michael Young

Michael and Shirley Young - December 28, 2020 at 12:44 PM

JD

“ Hello Marla: Gail has kept us informed of Don and your illness. I can't tell you how sad Charlie and I are for your loss of Don. We also hope that very soon you and your kids can be grateful for the great times you did have with Don. And, in the meantime, we hope the memories are so wonderful that, though you may be having tears, you are smiling at the thought of each memory. We hope you will take such good, tender, and loving care of yourselves right now and into the future. We know that is what a man like Don would want you to do. We are sure he would like to have stayed so he could be handing out that good, tender, and loving care to you. We are so sorry you got this terrible illness and we appreciate how hard you had to fight to stay here with all of us. I think your kids are probably quite grateful that at least one of their parents survived. We hope there is some joy to be found in life in the future, and hope you will seek activities to bring you joy. Again, so sorry for your loss.
Jean Dawson and Charlie Keefer in Alcova, Wy

j dawson - December 28, 2020 at 12:09 PM

LH

“ My heart aches Marla for you and your family. Our families grew up during the same time span. All the horse riding and good times! Seems like ages ago when Jim was in the hospital and here we saw you! I have known you for a long time and if there is ever anything I can do to make your mourning a little easier, please let me know. Bless your entire family and the sadness they know! Love Linda and the Hudson Family!

Linda Hudson - December 28, 2020 at 10:22 AM

SK

“ Our deepest sympathies to you all. Our prayers are with you as you hold on to your wonderful memories of Don.
Jerry and Sue Keim

Susan Keim - December 27, 2020 at 03:00 PM

BP

“ Our condolence to you family, go way back remembering playing town team softball, our trips to the Denver stock show, cattle talk and our couples get to gathers, oh the good memories . God Bless Russ & Bonnie Priefert

Bonnie Priefert - December 27, 2020 at 12:44 PM

HW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.



Heidi (Damrow) Wedel - December 26, 2020 at 10:51 PM

PH

“ Don was a gentle soul, easy going and an unforgettable smile. He will be remembered. Our condolences to you, Marla and your family! Pastor Paul and Jeniece Hadland



Paul Hadland - December 25, 2020 at 07:32 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Don E. Dowdy.



December 22, 2020 at 10:40 AM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Don E. Dowdy*



Kent & Rose Theobald - December 21, 2020 at 01:43 PM

MH

“ *Mike & Lynne Houser lit a candle in memory of Don E. Dowdy*



Mike & Lynne Houser - November 21, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Don E. Dowdy.*



November 19, 2020 at 06:45 PM

CB

“ *We will always hold memories of you close within our hearts and there you will always remain. So long, Don Dowdy. Christine and Rick Bothell*

Christine Bothell - November 19, 2020 at 05:15 AM

LO

“ *I'm very sadden to hear of Don's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him .
Condolences to the family.*

Larry Olson - November 16, 2020 at 06:24 PM

LT

Our sympathies to all the family. We are praying for Marla's recovery!

Lynn Thumann - November 17, 2020 at 11:02 PM

JL

Very sorry to hear this. Don and his family have been very good to my family over the years and their brandings were something that we loved and looked forward to year round. It played a big part in my kids upbringing and it's something they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives. It's just a small part of Don's legacy, but one I'm most appreciative for.

Jim Lancaster - November 18, 2020 at 12:10 PM

CP

Our sympathies to Marla and the family on Dons passing. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with you Marla as you recover from Covid-19.

Clark Poppert - November 23, 2020 at 11:47 AM



It was such a shock to hear about Don, we can't express how sorry we are. Don was one of a kind that truly appreciated and loved in his boyhood community of Carleton. He will always be in our hearts and memories. We will always remember the great times we shared with Don.

Don was a great friend and a special kind of person. We will always remember his kind smile and the twinkle in his eyes, as well as the positive influence he had on all who met and knew him. Don touched so many lives. He was truly a special man. He will be greatly missed by many. We can't express how hard this is for the community of Carleton. It will not be the same without his presence. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marla, Diane, Dave, and Brad along with their families. We are sending our most sincere sympathies. May God comfort and bless you and give you strength, and our continued prayers for the recovery of Marla.

Ron and Lucinda Lange

Lucinda Lange - November 26, 2020 at 06:17 PM