



## Donald F. Best

August 21, 1927 - March 1, 2013

Donald F. Best, 85, of Geneva, passed away March 1, 2013 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was born on a farm southwest of Upland to Harm and Mary Mabel Best on August 21, 1927. He attended a country elementary school and graduated from Upland High School in 1945. He was active in all sports, but especially enjoyed baseball and basketball.

He joined the U.S. Navy in August of 1945 and was sent to boot camp in San Diego, California. He also served in the Great Lakes region and at a Navy personnel separation center in St. Louis, Missouri.

After his discharge in August 1946, he enrolled at Kearney State College within 5 days. Don was married to Donna Fredrickson on May 29, 1947 and graduated from college in May of 1950.

He served the Verdel Public Schools as principal and after one year, became superintendent. In 1953, Don moved his family to Chapman, NE where he served as superintendent until 1958 and earned his Master's degree from Kearney State College. Don then served as principal at the Youth Development Center in Geneva and was promoted to superintendent in 1963, a position he held for 32 years. He retired in October of 1989.

During his time in Geneva, he was named as the first Director of Juvenile services for the state of Nebraska and served as Director of Corrections under Governor J. James Exon, and later under Governor Charles Thone. He was a member of the Juvenile Justice Association and was awarded the Outstanding Juvenile Service Award in 1990.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harm and Mary Mabel Best of Upland, NE, his stepmother Bertha Westerbuhr, two infant twin sons Kerry and Terry, and grandson, Anthony Bertuccelli.

He is survived by his wife, Donna of Geneva; sister Doneta Gifford of Kearney, NE; and children: Cristy and husband Keith Koch of Shickley, NE; Cherryl Bertuccelli of Osborne, KS; Sandi and husband Rod Renken of Geneva; Brad Best and fiancé Dianna Johnson of Henderson, NE; and Carol Best of Omaha, NE. He was also blessed with nine grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

Faith and family were of great importance in his life. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His life serves as an example to seek ways to lighten the burdens of others.

Funeral services for Don were held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church in Geneva. Pastor James Sells officiated the services. Sharie Hubert accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Abide With Me" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Lois Burger played a piano solo of "How Great Thou Art." Military Rites were held at the church following the funeral service, and they were performed by the Geneva VFW Samuel J. Marsh Post 7102.

Pallbearers for the service included Kory Koch, Ryan Renken, John Reilly, Lucas Dart, David Bahe, and Tyler Pulec. Honorary bearers included Kari Bahe, Kelli Reilly, Kimberly Dart, Alisha Renken, Erin Best, Rebecca Best, and Jamie Koch. Interment was held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, at the Upland Cemetery, Upland, Nebraska. Memorials are directed to the Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church or the Geneva Rescue Unit. Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ Just wanting you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Treasure all of the good times as they become cherished memories! Jim & Lana

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**Jim & Lana Daws** - March 04, 2013 at 10:27 PM

PB

“ Pat Bohart has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

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**Pat Bohart** - March 04, 2013 at 01:52 PM

KC

“ To the family of Donald Best - my deepest sympathy to you at this very sad time.  
Carol - I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your entire family.  
Krista Clark

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**Krista Clark** - March 04, 2013 at 12:27 PM

KA

“ We would like to express our condolences to Brad and all of Don's family and friends.  
Kent & Toni Allen

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**Kent Allen** - March 04, 2013 at 11:47 AM

BF

“ So very Sorry for your Loss!  
Keeping You and Your Family in our Thoughts and Prayers!  
With Sincere Sympathy,

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**Bridgette Flohrs** - March 04, 2013 at 10:43 AM

TO

“ *Mr. Best served the state well and provided excellent guidance for the youth and staff of the YRTC's. May his memory be eternal.*

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**Tim O'Dea** - March 04, 2013 at 09:29 AM

MR

“ *We are sorry to hear about Don, he was a pleasant man who was a friend to everyone he met. We will miss him, but he will forever live in the hearts of everyone who knew him! With Sympathy*

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**Mark,Sarah,Brandon & Ethan Reinsch** - March 03, 2013 at 09:54 PM

ML

“ *Our prayers are with you, your family and friends. My mother Clarice Best Lawson often talked about Don. Don made us all proud of his accomplishments in life. May you find comfort in your loss with God.*

*In Jesus name. Mathew Lawson son of Earl and Clarice Lawson.*

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**Mathew Lawson** - March 02, 2013 at 11:15 PM

AJ

“ *To Donna, the kids and extended family,  
My deepest sympathy to you on the passing of Don. I have many memories about Don and our work together. He was a role model for me and one of the reasons for my success when I followed him as Superintendent at the YRTC.*

*This is a difficult time for the family, but know that you are in my prayers as you grieve the lose of Don.*

*Al Jensen*

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**Al & Doris Jensen** - March 02, 2013 at 10:51 AM