



Donald Frederick Bellinger

November 28, 1934 - November 4, 2025

Donald F. Bellinger, age 90, of Kalkaska, Michigan went home to be with the Lord on November 4, 2025, at Kalkaska Memorial Long Term Memory Care. He was born at home on November 28, 1934, to Orrin and Rena (Byers) Bellinger in Kalkaska, Michigan. Don was never one to sit for too long. Even as a young boy, he found ways to work, use his hands, and learn from those around him. He graduated from Kalkaska High School in 1953. His academic achievements earned him a full-ride scholarship to the University of Michigan. Knowing in his heart that the classroom environment was not where he flourished, he tossed his scholarship papers over the bow of the Great Lakes ore freighter, J. Pierpont Morgan, and never looked back.

Don began work as a road and bridge surveyor for the Michigan Department of Transportation in 1953. He loved the outdoors, so this job suited him well. In 1955, Don was drafted into the Army where he proudly served his country for two years. He rejoined his surveying crew in 1957. Traveling all over the state in his 35-year career, he helped blaze the way for many of the roads we drive on today and made countless lifelong memories and friends along the way.

He is survived by his devoted wife and love of his life, Peggy Ann (Jacobson). They were married on January 21, 1956, at Peoples Church in Kalkaska. They enjoyed 69 wonderful years of marriage and raised four beautiful children in the house that his grandparents built. In addition to Peggy, Don is survived by his three daughters Kathy (Keith) Campbell, Cheryl (Dale)

Dorvinen, Pam (Steven) Hinds, and son, Dan (Julie); 12 grandchildren, Ian, Courtney (Matt), Jordan, Aaron (Christa), Zach (Whitney), Cody (April), Tate, Christian (Lydia), Jack (Isabelle), William (Emily), Elizabeth, and Aidan; seven great-grandchildren Kora, Haley, Orrin, Norah, Addie, Amélie, and Joe; sister, Mary Bigelow; sister-in-law, Nancy Johnson and brother-in-law, Bernie Jacobson; and many nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws Clarence Jacobson, Ethel (Jacobson) McKee, and Marshall McKee; brother David Bellinger; brothers-in-law Ron Johnson and Patrick Bigelow; and sister-in-law Hilda Jacobson.

Don loved history, doing things for others, tinkering on his Model A, sharing a cup of coffee with friends, deer hunting, but most of all he loved his family. He was a proud member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a local historian, and Director of the Kalkaska Historical Museum.

Visitation will be at noon followed by a funeral service at 1:00 pm Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Kalkaska Funeral Home, 152 S Cedar St, Kalkaska, MI 49646. Graveside service with military honors at Kalkaska Evergreen Cemetery with a luncheon to follow at Peoples Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Peoples Church, 216 S Cherry St, Kalkaska, MI 49646 or Heartland Hospice, 400 Eastern Sky Dr STE 2, Traverse City, MI 48684.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at kalkaskafuneralhome.com for the Bellinger family. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

272 West St.
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Service

NOV 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S Cedar St
P.O. Box 1457
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

AE

“ Got the privilege of listening to many stories of his life as I cut his hair . I was always excited to see his smiling face walking into the Barber Shop . I will miss him.

Amy everett - January 23 at 11:27 AM

RS

“ Robert S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Frederick Bellinger.

Robert S. - December 09, 2025 at 02:33 PM

CV

“ Donnie and Peggy and their lives in love have been intertwined in my heart ever since I can remember. It is impossible to describe the legacy that long endures. My father and Donnie were both born in November and both went home in November. I picture them together eating poached eggs! Sending all my loving memories from my heart to yours Peggy. God bless, Cousin Chari

Chari Vandepanne - November 14, 2025 at 02:30 PM

JF

“ Jenny, Tom(Vollmer) and families. purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald Frederick Bellinger.



Jenny, Tom(Vollmer) and families. - November 13, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Frederick Bellinger.*



November 12, 2025 at 11:25 AM



“ *The Cannons, Babricks, Haydens, &Hamels purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald Frederick Bellinger.*



The Cannons, Babricks, Haydens, &Hamels - November 10, 2025 at 04:33 PM



“ *Anne & Matt Flint, Marybeth Kinney. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Frederick Bellinger.*



Anne & Matt Flint, Marybeth Kinney. - November 10, 2025 at 12:43 PM



“ *Anne & Matt Flint, Marybeth Kinney. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Frederick Bellinger.*

Anne & Matt Flint, Marybeth Kinney. - November 10, 2025 at 12:43 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Frederick Bellinger.*



November 07, 2025 at 12:35 PM



“ *The Jacobs and Fey Families planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald Frederick Bellinger.*

The Jacobs and Fey Families - November 07, 2025 at 12:35 PM