



Donald Ray Sherman

August 3, 1933 - October 18, 2025

Donald R. Sherman, 92, was welcomed home by the Lord on Saturday, October 18, 2025, when he passed away peacefully in the presence of his wife and daughters. Born in Lansing, Michigan on August 3, 1933, Don was the loving son of William T. (Shorty) Sherman and Marguerite A. Rose Sherman. The family moved to Kalkaska, Michigan in 1943 where Don enjoyed swimming, fishing, and hunting. He became catcher on the Kalkaska Blazer Baseball team, graduating from Kalkaska High School in 1951. Don served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War as a Staff Sargent and Radio Operator in Colorado Springs, Colorado from 1953-1955. In 1953 Don married the love of his life, Beatrice L. Hager Sherman on June 5, 1953, in Junction City, Kansas. Upon completion of his service, Don and Bea came back to Kalkaska where he became a leading member of the community. Throughout the years Don was a member of the Rotary Club, where he served as Club President, the Kalkaska County Industrial Development Corporation, the Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce, where he was awarded "Citizen of the Year" with his wife Bea. Along with being an active member of the Kalkaska Church of Christ and the Sebring Christian Church where he served as an Elder and leader for a combined total of 50 years, Don served on the Foundation Board at Northwestern Michigan College. He was also active at Great Lakes Christian College where he served as Trustee and Board President for a total of 20 years. Don worked at Wayne Wire Cloth Products in Kalkaska as a

Quality Control Manager, where he retired after 49 years. As well as being an avid outdoorsman Don was an avid golfer, having the pleasure of playing at many renowned golf courses around the U.S. He also sang in a Men's Gospel Quartet, starting in the 6th grade, making music with the same members for 80 years. In addition to his parents Don was preceded in death by his mother- and father-in-law Claire and Thomas Hager and by his son-in-law, Charles R. Sole. Along with his wife, Don is survived by his daughters Jennie M. (Tom) Bender of Grayson, Kentucky and Melissa C. Sole of Traverse City, MI; grandchildren Donald L. (Keila) Bender of Lexington, KY, Rebecca L. Bender of Grayson, KY, Charlie S. (Katy) Sole of South Boardman, MI, and Emily M. Sole (Franklin) Alls of Tampa, FL; and great-grandchildren Kaitlynn M. (Camren) Staton and Jakob A. Bender of Lexington, KY, Jayden C. Alls of Tampa, FL, and Charlie R. and Olivia A. Sole of South Boardman, MI. Don also leaves behind numerous extended family, friends, colleagues, and church family who mourn his passing. A funeral service will be held at the Kalkaska Church of Christ on Friday, October 24 at 11:00am, with visitation at 10:00am. In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to Great Lakes Christian College, <https://www.glcc.edu/give/> General Fund in memory of Donald R. Sherman. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

272 West St.
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Church of Christ
1725 W Kalkaska Rd NW
Kalkaska, MI 49646
<http://www.kccwired.com>

Funeral Service

OCT **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Church of Christ
1725 W Kalkaska Rd NW
Kalkaska, MI 49646
<http://www.kccwired.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Sherman.*



October 23, 2025 at 01:45 AM



“ *My heart is filled with countless memories of Don and Bea as youth group leaders at the Kalkaska Church of Christ. They both had such an impact on my life! Don's words and example shaped a deep spiritual foundation for my own life and service that I was able to pass on to a next generation of young people. I will miss his exuberant joy and enduring love for all of us "kids" from his youth group as we grew into adults, nurtured by those early years shaped by his influence. So grateful for his life and faith.*

MaryEllen (Lantzer) Pereira - October 22, 2025 at 10:32 PM



“ *Glenna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Ray Sherman.*

Glenna - October 22, 2025 at 06:26 PM

GL

“ *Glenna purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Ray Sherman.*



Glenna - October 22, 2025 at 06:26 PM

MC

“Hey there, My Friend!”

Don Sherman has been “My Friend” for over 46 years. When I joined Bendix Corporation (South Bend, IN) in 1979, I was blessed with the good fortune to meet and work with many great people at Wayne Wire Cloth Products including Dale Lantzer, Norm Groner, Spike Miller, Tom Ropers, Mike Brown Sr. and Don Sherman. Back in those days, Bendix was the customer, and Wayne Wire was the vendor, but our business relationship was far greater than any typical supplier/buyer association. It was by far the strongest I experienced in my 43-year professional career. Our team collectively solved countless challenges and exceeded many deadlines. We rolled up our sleeves, worked hard, respected each other as peers and pushed the envelope!

When the day’s work was complete, we enjoyed each other’s company and simply had fun! We laughed a lot, we were loud “a couple times” (louder than our normal loud) and we enjoyed heckling one another. These were also among my favorite times in life. We played golf, teased each other endlessly and then we laughed some more over “30 lbs. of Pizza”. If you tripped up or got words twisted, you only heard about it forever!

My friendship with Don only grew stronger after we were done working together. We played Golf, we Fished, we explored his Woods and my wife (Linda) and I made multiple visits to Bea and Don’s homes in Sebring Florida as well as South Boardman. Every time we visited we reminisced about the fun we had as the workdays became more distant. We stayed in close communication. We talked about our families, grandkids and life. Don loved Bea, Jenny & Melissa, their kids and great grandkids to the end of the earth.

Don was a role model, a wonderful Christian and enriched my life with every meeting. I loved him, he loved me, and we each knew that as we openly shared our feelings. I am so proud to have been called “My Friend”. I miss that and you already!

Mike Corson

Mike Corson - October 22, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ *My Thought's And Prayer's Are With Bea ,Melissa,Jenny And All Of The Family Member's <3 I Grew Up In The Church Of Christ Family And I So Love You And Your Family Don <3 I am So Sorry For Everyone's Loss And May God Wrap His Loving Arm's Around You All During This Difficult Time . I So Loved You In The Quartet Don ,You And Mr. Lantzer And Ron And Don Woods Were Such A Beautiful Quartet !!! Sang Just Beautiful And Now You May Sing For Our Lord Jesus Up In The Heaven's Above <3 You Will Be Greatly Missed Mr.Don !!! Thank You For Your Loving And Giving Heart <3*

Marie Lash - October 21, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JC

“ *Dear Bea, Jenny and Melissa and family, I will so miss seeing Donnie at church when we were both in town. He always gave me a hug and kind words. He was a mentor and champion of our youth group when I was a teenager . His beautiful tenor voice was amazing. He's with his other 2 cohorts singing with the angels. He will be missed here on earth but where he should be. With Jesus. I love you all so much and am praying for you*

Joyce Candela - October 21, 2025 at 11:00 AM