



Donald R Stenger

October 25, 1936 - June 5, 2019

Donald R. Stenger passed peacefully at the age of 82, at home with his loving, wife Carol, son Mark and Maui Luau, his loyal pet dog, by his side on June 5, 2019 in Gulf Shores, Alabama. He was predeceased by his wife Marlene Hallgren (1977) of 20 years and mother of his children, brother Rodney and sister-in-law Carol Joyce. Born in Rockford, IL, Don lived most of his life on the Rock River where he raised his family. He was an avid water skier, renowned for his one-foot barefoot skiing, and in his earlier days, traditionally spent every Jan 1st with his buddies, skiing in the icy waters of Rock River.

Don served a short time in the US Navy from 1955 to 1957. During that time, he was stationed in Foley, AL at Barin Field as a life guard and loved the area. He then pursued his career in corporate management with National Lock, Hill Rockford and Johnson Enterprises, where he retired in 1998.

Don and Carol Ann Sagon met August 1979 on the Rock River, were engaged in 6 months and married on May 3, 1980 at the Church by the Side of the Road in Rockton, IL. They truly loved and adored each other, sharing 39 lively and wonderful years together. Fun times included traveling, especially to Abaco, Bahamas, skiing, swimming, snorkeling, boating, enjoying the best gourmet dining, motorcycle riding, billiards, and playing Euchre. Don also enjoyed tinkering with projects in his garages, restoring boats and reading cowboy novels. Most of all, Don and Carol enjoyed outdoor wood burning fires at night, laughing and creating lasting memories with family and friends.

In 2012, Don and Carol sold most everything and started a 6-year journey of full time RVing in their beautiful 40ft Class A Diesel Motor Coach, which landed them in one of their favorite places. They sold their coach in 2018 and made Gulf Shores their home.

Special thank you to Stephanie Brown (Jeff Brown) for taking the time to travel to be with her Grandpa in the days before, and to his loving son Mark for sharing those last days and hours by his side.

Creative and passionate about life, Don lived and loved the great outdoors and was the most handsome and bravest of men. 'Donnie' will be missed by all his family and friends and forever remembered by his hardy, deep laughter, bright smile and these words: "Is the sky blue..."

No services will be held. Memorials can be made to your favorite Charity in his honor.

Tribute Wall

JP

“ Liked Don the moment I met him. Just down to earth. Had to pry out of him what he did in his life. I know he did not want to leave us. Seemed he wanted one more day to talk. Dee and I will miss him.

jpereira - July 25, 2019 at 07:26 PM

SW

“ We met Don and Carol while wintering in Orange Beach, AL. They were our next door condo neighbors and we became instant friends running back and forth to each other's door. How lucky we were to have experienced such fun times - dinners, cards, road trips, Carol's excellent cooking and laughing till our sides hurt. We were delighted when they came to visit us in Michigan and we went to visit them in Illinois. We remember Donnie as a straight forward guy with a wonderful sense of humor - he sure had a great laugh. We send out heartfelt sympathy to you Carol and hope all the wonderful memories that you two shared will be balm for your broken heart.

Sharon and Roger Wolfe
Holland, MI

Sharon Wolfe - July 25, 2019 at 05:06 PM

RK

“ Donnie was a gentle and the most humbling giant of a man. We learned so much from him. He taught us how to laugh and to how to love the life we were so blessed to be given. We never heard an ill word from him. In business, he mentored us with his experience and wisdom. Rest In Peace our friend. Ours lives have been forever enriched by you. God bless you and keep you Donnie.
Love, Bob, Sara and Jack in Heaven

Robert and Sara Klingler - July 25, 2019 at 03:09 PM

LM

“ *Mr. Don will be missed !! I still look to my right when ever I sitting on our patio to see if Mr Don is sitting out on theirs!! He was a great man and was always so kind , we love & miss him!*

larry martin - July 25, 2019 at 02:29 PM

SG

“ *Always a big smile and a welcome hug....greeted you at the door. So many memories of fun times!! His 50th birthday party...cocktails around the fire pit... Riding around on the minie bike he restored... A pressed out garage...and yes the early years over at Buds....25 years of close friendship...❤️🌟*
Sue gustafson

sue gustafson - July 25, 2019 at 12:54 PM

GW

“ *A beautiful tribute to a sweet man whom I liked very much*

Ginny White - July 25, 2019 at 12:36 PM