



Donald Milton Pyles

December 28, 1934 - September 15, 2020

Donald M. Pyles, 85, passed peacefully in his home September 15, 2020 in Bartlesville, OK. The family will have visitation Friday September 18 from 6pm to 8pm at Stumpff Funeral Home. A graveside service officiated by Dr. Greg Tener will be held Saturday afternoon September 19 at 2pm at Memorial Park Cemetery for anyone who would like to attend.

He was born in Altus, OK on December 28th, 1934 to Vernon Milton Pyles and Georgia Lee Adams. After high school he attended Cameron State in Lawton, Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater, and graduated from Central State College in Edmond in 1957 with a B.A. in Economics. While in Edmond he went on a blind date to a football game with Donna Sue Grooms of Bartlesville, who was also attending Central State College. Don and Donna were married on his birthday, December 28th, 1957. Donna felt like this would make him remember their anniversary. In 1961, Don and Donna returned to her hometown of Bartlesville, where they made their home for the remainder of his life.

Don enlisted with the United States Marine Corps in 1957, and was stationed in Quantico, VA where he was accepted into the 20th Officers Candidate Class. After adhering to the rigorous requirements in academics, leadership, and physical fitness including the Endurance Course, Don was commissioned as Second Lieutenant. He was then stationed in Okinawa, Japan for 15 months before being assigned to Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, CA. A proud Marine, Don served four years active duty before transferring to the 8th

Marine Corps Reserve & Recruitment District where he completed an additional 18 years of service. He retired with the grade of Major after nearly 22 years of accumulated service.

He loved many things in life: His country, being a marine, serving his country, his wife, his special granddaughter, and being a Democrat. Being outgoing and able to talk to anyone, he also loved spending time and joking with people whether it be family, friends, or neighbors. As a real estate appraiser for 35 years, it was not uncommon for him to befriend anyone at a gas station while filling his insulated cup with “pop”. Don and Donna are members of First Church of Bartlesville.

As an avid sports fan, particularly OSU football, many of his hobbies and traditions were athletic in nature. Some may recall Don as Bill Mingle’s color man on KWON radio for the Bartlesville high school football team and American Legion baseball games. He was also an avid runner who completed two marathons and encouraged his granddaughter to do the same. He and a group of friends began a rich tradition of road tripping to Des Moines, Iowa annually to attend the Drake Relays. That tradition has now spanned 40+ years. The YMCA had a special place in Don’s heart, and he loved going there to “work out” and visit.

He enjoyed being an active Jaycee member, and held many different offices. Don was also past Commander of The American Legion. He and Donna enjoyed their western dance group call the Two Steppers, of which he served several terms as President. He was also a master gardener and volunteered at Linneaus Teaching Garden in Tulsa.

He was preceded in death by his parents and infant son, Ronald Don Pyles. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and adopted granddaughter, Jenny Beth Jones.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established at the Richard Kane YMCA, 101 N. Osage Bartlesville, OK 74003.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Previous Events

Family To Receive Friends

SEP **18**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory
1600 SE Washington Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org>

graveside

SEP **19**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery
4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Milton Pyles*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM

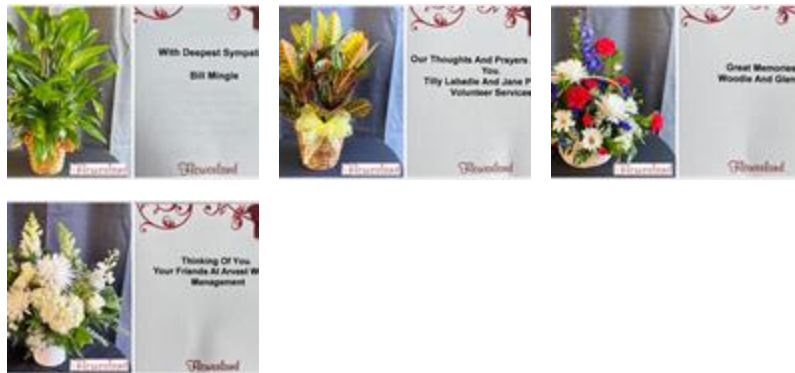


“ *Donald Milton Pyles*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Flower Pictures*



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - September 21, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ *Don...you will be missed. You blessed our lives for so many years. Our memories date back to the 1960's and our times together in the Jaycees. We worked on projects like the paper drive, miniature golf at Sooner Park, and the Adams Golf Course. Our Jaycee friends were lifelong buddies taking many trips to the Drake Relays in Iowa, playing bridge, or just enjoying life together. Thank you for being such a great friend. Donna....our thoughts and prayers are with you. Bob and Juanita Johansen*

Carol Womble - September 20, 2020 at 07:14 PM

EP

“ *Donnie, so sorry to hear of Don's passing, it was always fun to visit with him. Your in our prayers. Mike and Ella Pace*

Ella Pace - September 19, 2020 at 01:38 PM

PB

“ *Donna, I'm saddened to hear of Don's passing. Don was always so positive and I thoroughly enjoyed our visits. You and Jenny Beth are in my prayers. Pam Balentine*

Pam Balentine - September 18, 2020 at 11:56 PM

JC

“ *Donna - I remember when Don and Bill broadcast the Doenges Indians baseball games when Brenna, Al I would attend practically every game and you could tell how much Don enjoyed broadcasting... He was one of the nicest guys and seemed to never meet a stranger and to enjoy visiting with everyone.. God bless...My prayers are with you... Jane Call*


Jane Call - September 18, 2020 at 12:12 PM

GS

“ *We are all going to miss this wonderful man.I know this because I already do.Some People say I've known so n so my whole life,When I was born in 1961 Donna and Don lived directly across the street.They both looked out for that little guy as he was their friend.My entire family holds a very soft and happy place in our hearts for Don.Most of us wish we new 30% of what he could tell you about any sports team.Good times With good people.The fight was long and hard,now be with your maker. In Gods hands. Greg Sutherland Owasso OK*



Greg Sutherland - September 17, 2020 at 07:12 PM

 Diane Jones

“ Don has the biggest heart. He opened that heart to include myself and my daughter from the day she was born. He loved to play Donkey-do on the floor with her when she was little. He was excited that she excelled in sports locally before we moved to Yukon, Oklahoma when she was almost 7 years old. It almost broke his heart to be separated from her. Through the years we kept the highway hot meeting at the Midway McDonalds on the Turner Turnpike so she could spend time in Bartlesville. He and Donna shared the cost with me for her French Horn when she was in the sixth grade. She continues to play that same Horn with the Oklahoma Symphonic Band in Oklahoma City. He attended their Christmas Concert last year. She became a runner a few years ago and was so excited when he came to see her complete her first marathon in Tulsa. I'm not sure who had the biggest smile when she crossed the finish line. We have spent most Easters, Thanksgivings, and Christmases in Bartlesville with Don and Donna fondly called Mamaw and Pa. We will both miss him so much.

Diane D. Jones Yukon, Oklahoma

Diane Jones - September 16, 2020 at 08:44 PM

NW

“ RIP Don, you fought a tough battle over the last several months.

You will be greatly missed.

nancy wake - September 16, 2020 at 08:09 PM