



Donald Bastemeyer

May 2, 1951 - April 5, 2024

Donald Ray Bastemeyer, aged 72, passed away on the morning of April 5th, 2024 at the VA Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD after an extended struggle with heart complications.

Donald was born in Sioux Falls on May 2, 1951, to Floyd and Elva (Temple) Bastemeyer. He grew up in Sioux Falls and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1970. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army and became a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. In 1973, he returned to Sioux Falls. In 1974 he began dating Melissa Mutschelknaus, whom he had known since they were five years old. The courtship was fast, as they were married the next spring on March 22, 1975. Don and Melissa made their home in Sioux Falls, where they welcomed their three daughters: Danese, Dawn, and Donna. They then moved from Sioux Falls to rural Lennox and continued living there to this day. Don was employed throughout the years at Raven's and Hutchinson Technology, where he worked his way to production supervisor. Towards the end of his time working, he kept himself busy working the sporting goods department at WalMart. After retiring in 2016, he still kept busy at Casey's in Lennox. He officially retired from working in 2019.

Don enjoyed the country life with its open spaces and abundance of hunting land. In his retirement, he spent time sitting on the back deck with his morning coffee and watching the wildlife go by. Donna often tried to tell him that it doesn't count as hunting if you don't need to put shoes on, but Don disputed

that fact. He also found happiness in other outdoor activities such as fishing and camping with Melissa and whichever dog they had at the time. Don and Melissa always had at least one Labrador at home. The family has tried to remember the names of them all through the years, but there are too many to recall. The dogs would accompany Don when hunting, camping, or even just working on things around the house. We suspect that he liked the dogs so much because they were more enthusiastic helpers than the three girls. Another highlight in Don's life was his grandchildren, who he doted on in his own way, going along with their crazy requests or making his way through a maze of storage to find the new litter of kittens outside because Kyla insisted on seeing them. The grandchildren also helped with Don and Melissa's large vegetable gardens, while trying to keep the tomatoes and strawberries away from the dogs.

Don entered the hospital after the final of several heart attacks on December 20, 2023. He underwent open heart surgery on December 26, which revealed that his condition was more complex than previously thought. He continued to fight through several setbacks and was finally transferred to the VA Hospital for rehab services. Throughout all of this, Don never lost his wily personality or stubborn perseverance. The medical team were often amused by his ability to quickly recover from setbacks and respond to everything with sarcastic humor. Don entered into hospice care on April 4, where medical staff made sure that his last hours were comfortable. Don passed away quietly and peacefully surrounded by his wife, daughters, and grandchildren early in the morning on April 5, 2024.

Don was preceded in death by his parents Floyd Bastemeyer and Elva Weeldreyer, step-father Edwin Weeldreyer, and brother Robert Bastemeyer. Don is survived by his loving wife, Melissa; daughters Danese Johannsen, Dawn Bastemeyer-Davis (Lee), and Donna Bastemeyer; grandchildren Kyla (Jake), Dylan, Rylie, Lyllie, Tharen, Braylen, and Stella; and sister Robin Andraesek (Terry DeBoer).

Services will begin at 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2024, at Dindot-Klusmann

Funeral Home, Lennox, SD with burial to follow at the Lennox Cemetery.
Visitation, with the family present, will be 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, also at Dindot-
Klusmann.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *Melissa, I'm at that dangerous age in men where things go wrong and we die, so I've been looking back over my life and with the help of the internet doing searches on former classmates of long ago. I attended Lincoln High with Don all those years ago and looked him up and was surprised to learn that he had just passed away. It may seem silly to do, since I haven't had any contact with these classmates in all the intervening years, yet I still do it. Don was always a great guy in school, a pleasant sort of person, and I send you my sympathy at your loss.*

Dean Andrews - May 14, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Hey cousin, so sorry to hear about your loss. You and your kids will be in my thoughts.*

John Mutschelknaus - April 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *I am sending my sincere condolences to you and your family. Janine is a dear friend and I know this loss is hard on the whole family. Take care and know that your friends are sending you love and prayers.*



Janet Harvey - April 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *So very sorry for your loss.*

Shelly Martin - April 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family. May the good Lord give you strength and comfort during this difficult time. He will be greatly missed by many. He always had a smile to share and he always had a joke or two. He was a great friend and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. God bless you my friend â ¤ï,

Mona Gardner - April 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ We are sorry to hear of Donâ€™s death. May you have our deepest sympathy. Keep the good memories close to your heart. Blessings to all your family.

Dennis & Penny Hennager - April 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Danese and Family - My deepest sympathy to you with the loss of your father. We will be keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.
Hugs Jen



Jen Carda - April 09, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ May the Lord comfort the Bastemeyer family in this time of sorrow and rejoice knowing that Don will be in Heaven looking over his family from above until you all meet again in Heaven.



Kerry Davis - April 08, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ *Melissa & Family,*

All my sympathy. You are in my thoughts & prayers



Craig Godfrey - April 08, 2024 at 12:00 AM