



Donald L McElfresh

July 30, 1932 - August 2, 2023

Sutton resident Donald L. McElfresh, 91, passed away Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at the Sutton Community Home in Sutton, NE.

The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date. In honoring his wishes cremation has taken place.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Federated Church in Sutton, NE.

Condolences may be left at www.suttonmemorial.com.

Donald Lee McElfresh was born on July 30th, 1932, to Verl and Irene (Chase) McElfresh in Bel Aire, Smith County, Kansas. Don grew up with his younger sister, Shirley. He met his love, Joann Franklin, in the first grade. They would later become high school sweethearts and were married on July 4, 1953. Don and Joann enjoyed 67 years together before Joann passed away in 2020.

After high school, Don served stateside in the army during the Korean Conflict. Afterwards, Don and Joann owned and operated three retail businesses in Kansas and Nebraska. They had three children; Ronald, Mary Sue, and Scott, and raised their family in Sutton, Nebraska. They enjoyed their customers and contributed to the growing community.

Don was a member of the American Legion, the Sutton Federated Church, volunteered in the Sutton Fire Department, and served on the Sutton School Board. He was a founding member of the Horseshoe Bend golf course. Don enjoyed watching his grandchildren participate in school activities and was seldom missing in the bleachers. He spent several summers helping coach his grandsons' baseball team. By the end of the summer, everyone on the team called him Granddad. Fishing, playing bridge, attending horse shows, square dancing, and listening to music filled his free time.

He was deeply loved and will be forever missed. He is survived by his two children, Ron (Kim) McElfresh and Mary (Allen) Geiser; four grandchildren, Megan (Douglas) Ahrens, Jeremy (Nancy Berg) Hultman, Matthew (Paige) McElfresh, and Justin (Elizabeth) Hultman; two great-grandsons, Jameson Hultman and Hudson Ahrens; and one great-granddaughter, Ruby Hultman.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Joann, his parents, sister Shirley Beardslee, brother-in-law Carroll Beardlee, and son Scott.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ We got to see Don on our many visits to the Sutton Community Home. He was welcoming to our Mom, Mary Lou when she moved to assisted living and offered her a seat at his and Joann’s dining table for meals. He shared countless stories and always left us with a smile.

*With deepest sympathy,
Steve and Diane Kohler*

diane baum - August 07, 2023 at 09:12 PM

JM

“ Great memories of neighbors across the street in Lebanon, KS and seeing Don at alumni banquets years ago with hugs and his smile.
Janet (Thompson) McConnell

Janet McConnell - August 07, 2023 at 01:27 PM

ES

“ Don was one of those people that always seemed so happy to see you....his sparkling eyes and quick laugh never failed to greet me.
He and Joann were such a gift to Sutton

Ellen Sheridan

Ellen Sheridan - August 03, 2023 at 10:54 PM

VJ

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of
Donald L McElfresh



Virginia Johnson - August 03, 2023 at 10:29 AM

BG

“ Don was such a great person I think back to the old dime store days. He will be missed.

Bill George - August 03, 2023 at 07:37 AM



“ I think I speak for everyone at SCH/HCV when I say what an honor and a privilege it was to take care of Don. He was such a sweet and funny guy and he will be missed. Sending my love to the family ❤️



Kelli Griess - August 02, 2023 at 11:51 PM

KV

“ The McElfresh family were one of the best neighborhood families anyone could ever have. Spent a lot of time with Mary at their house. My mom also enjoyed working at the store for Don and Joan. Great neighbors! Prayers of peace for the family.

Kim VanDyke - August 02, 2023 at 08:11 PM

KW

“ Don was one of the best! When I would go see mom at assisted living I always made a point to see Don and he always knew who I was. We would joke around and reminisce about the old days riding horses and stopping by the Dimestore. Then he would give me a one liner and he'd be off. I will miss seeing and talking to him up there but am sure he is having a wonderful reunion with Joan and Scott. Love and hugs to the family. You had one of the best as your dad. 🙏❤️🙏

Kolleen Whaley - August 02, 2023 at 07:52 PM

JB

“ *John & Sherrie Bartell lit a candle in memory of Donald L McElfresh*



John & Sherrie Bartell - August 02, 2023 at 02:54 PM