



Mr. Donnie D. Tarrell

June 7, 2022

Donnie D. Tarrell, 79, of Lakeland, FL, passed away on June 07, 2022 after a three year battle with leukemia.

Donnie was born in 1942 in Agar, SD to Rose & Leonard Tarrell. In 1965, Donnie married Elsie Arbeiter in Huron, SD.

Donnie and Elsie raised their family in Douglas, WY during the 1970s and 80s, where Donnie was a long-time employee of the Converse County Bank. After the children were grown, Donnie and Elsie moved to the Lakeland, FL area.

Donnie is survived by his wife Elsie of 57 years, his daughters Tena (Vindel) Sudlow and Tristan Merz, his son, Dean Tarrell, and his grandchildren Josiah Merz, Tessa (Jesse) Thomas and Jack Merz. He was preceded in death by his son-in-law Alex Merz, his brother Ronne Tarrell, and his parents, Leonard and Rose Tarrell.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Stitches of Love, a sewing ministry Donnie loved and participated in at Lake Church in Lakeland, FL (863-682-0163). Or, for those who are able, the family would appreciate blood/plasma donations at the blood bank in your local community in recognition of the significant role blood donations played in Donnie's final

years.

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

DM

“ It is with such a heavy heart to receive the sad news of Donnie's passing. What a privilege it has been to be his friend over so many years beginning with first meeting Donnie and his brother Ronnie at Huron High School when we drove to school each day from our farm homes, often having lunch together in our cars before afternoon classes. In high school we shared the interest of playing intramural basketball at 6:30 in the morning after our early morning farm chores. We attended Huron College together for two years when Donnie decided to accept a position at the local bank. His father was disappointed in him not completing his college degree at that time but he promised his dad that he would eventually complete his degree.. And sure enough, he did honor his promise with a Palm Beach Atlantic University Bachelor of Science Degree in 2002. My wife Susan and I were blessed to visit Donnie and Elsie in Florida February 28, 2022, at which time he proudly showed us his BS degree certificate as well as all of his amazing artistic handicrafts of sewing quilts and crocheting.

We have always had such a fun time during our visits in the past reminiscing about his courtship of Elsie and how we were roommates at Vermillion, SD. while Donnie worked at the local bank and I attended graduate school. While sharing an apartment we had some interesting stories to share that included cleaning house in the middle of the night. Donnie later decided to purchase a mobile home and rented a room to me. When he asked Elsie to marry him he advised me that three would be a crowd, so although I did not see the problem, I moved out. Elsie would sometimes have mischievous and dangerous ideas like climbing over a high private fence in the dark of night to steal rock hard walnuts fallen to the ground. What wonderful soulmates they have been over the past 57 years and we always looked forward to our short visits. I am proud to have called Donnie my best friend.

The time he has given to others, the hearts he has touched, and the lives he has blessed are true gifts from God. Thank you Donnie for all of the cherished memories and for sharing His love in so many

ways.

May His arms hold you Elsie and all of the family close and praying that God's peace, love, and comfort will be with each of you always.

With all of our heart felt love and sympathy,

Dr. Roger and Susan McGaughey

Dr. Roger McGaughey - June 16, 2022 at 10:26 PM

OK

“ *So sorry for your loss! Thoughts and prayer to you and all the family. I played intramural basketball with Donnie. We had to be there at 6:30 in the morning, but we all enjoyed the time together. I have good memories of our high school days.*

May God bless and comfort you and the family.

Orrie King

Class of 1960

Orrie King - June 12, 2022 at 09:31 AM

LM

“ *Our sincere sympathy to you Elsie, and all your family. Donnie was a classmate of Fern Marie's at Huron High School in Huron SD.*

We think he actually started his banking career here in Huron and worked with Fern

Marie for a short while at the National Bank of SD .May the love of God and others surround you and give you peace. Larry & Fern Marie (Klassen) Mattke



Larry & Fern Marie Mattke - June 11, 2022 at 09:49 PM

H1

“ Dear Elsie and Family - Sincere condolences in the passing of Donnie. We know that all the wonderful memories you and your family have of life with Donnie are now treasurers of your hearts. May God bless you - Donnie's classmates - The Huron High School Class of 1960.



Huron High School Class of 1960 - June 11, 2022 at 09:44 PM

DB

“ Uncle Donnie was always so kind when we would visit. He and Elsie were quick to help with parking, tickets, and advice for Disney. He's take the kids for ice cream (without the parents) so they could "visit". Introducing us to chocolate cake in a bowl of milk at bedtime. He will be missed but our memories will keep him with us. May our faith give comfort and peace until we see him again.

-Debra Tarrell Van Briesen (Ronne's oldest)

Debra Van Briesen - June 11, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Donnie D. Tarrell.



June 10, 2022 at 12:04 AM

AW

“ *To Elsie & family, so very sorry for your loss. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I remembered that Donnie worked in a bank somewhere in Wyoming but I was so surprised when I read the obituary that it was in Douglas. My husband & I have been in Gillette, WY since 1975. That is so close & I'm so sorry that we never connected. Ann Weber (Tony Todd's oldest daughter).*



Ann Weber - June 08, 2022 at 11:41 PM