



Donald J. Wixtrom

October 14, 1928 - January 25, 2017

Donald J. Wixtrom, 88, of Witch Lake, died Wed. Jan. 25, 2017 at his home. He was born in Witch Lake on Oct. 14, 1928, the son of the late Joseph and Edith (Johnson) Wixtrom

Donald graduated for Republic High School as the salutatorian of his class. He had a love of language and spoke Swedish and English at home and studied Latin in high school. At the age of eighteen, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and lived for two years in the Morgan Heights Sanitarium in Marquette. During this time he used short wave radio and Reader's Digest to expand his knowledge of foreign languages. By the time he left, he was able to translate ten different languages. Using this knowledge, he started his own business, Wixtrom Translations, translating foreign documents, mainly science, technical, and medical, into English. At the time of his retirement he was able to translate twenty-five languages. He taught Finnish classes for adult education classes and worked for the Department of Agriculture.

Donald enjoyed the outdoors and being in the woods. He enjoyed woodcutting, picking blueberries, hunting, and making maple syrup, tapping 600-800 trees a year for over 35 years. He also had a bountiful vegetable garden. He was a member and former Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Witch Lake.

He married Marilyn Sjoquist in Oct. 14, 1961 at Homestead Baptist Church. The couple enjoyed traveling , going to Sweden twice, on an Alaskan cruise, a Panama Canal cruise, and visiting several places in the United States. She preceded him in death on July 8, 2016.

Donald is survived by three children Joe (Cindy) Wixtrom of Marquette, Lorna (Patrick) Carey of Channing, and Aaron (Shelly) Wixtrom of Witch Lake, one sister Shirley (Edsel) Salo of Watton, MI, fourteen grandchildren Hannah (Taylor) Hicks, Parker Carey, Grace Carey, Gunnar (Jessi) Wixtrom, Kara (Kyle Cushway) Wixtrom, Celia Wixtrom, Noah Wixtrom, Larissa Wixtrom, Madeline Wixtrom, Dane Wixtrom, Morgan McAuliffe, Luke McAuliffe, Tyler (Kara) McCarty, and Audrey McCarty, five great grandchildren Colt and Reid Hicks, Kylee West, and Lilli and Lainey McCarty, and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Saturday from 1-3pm Eastern Time at the First Baptist church of Witch Lake. Funeral services will follow at 3pm at the church. Rev. Keven Brownfield will officiate. Burial will be in the Republic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Donald's caregiver and friend, Mary Erickson.

Condolences to the family of Donald J. Wixtrom may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Republic Cemetery

Republic, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake
2962 Hwy M95
Republic, MI 49879

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Witch Lake
2962 Hwy M95
Republic, MI 49879

Tribute Wall

VB

“ So sorry for your loss. He was such a gentle man. He loved Marilyn with his entire being. Miss the monthly birthday lunches we had as a group. Now he can have them with Marilyn and all the others that have since passed. He will be dearly missed.

Vicki Bunting - January 28, 2017 at 06:54 PM

CF

“ ii was so saddened to hear about Donald. I had never received the information that Marilyn had passed last July. May our Lord grant you his peace and many fond memories of their love for each other. I felt blessed to have known and spent way too limited time with them both. Carolee Ford

carolee ford - January 28, 2017 at 06:04 PM

RM

“ My memory of Brother Don is short but effective. I watched him every Sunday morning carefully and patiently walk his sweet wife up the stairs to the auditorium of the First Baptist Church of Witch Lake for over 3 years. I could tell by how he cared for "momma" that he was a good man. I stood in awe of the covenant love between a man and his wife developed over years of time, facing and overcoming the elements of the human predicament! And when Marilyn passed away, I had already lost my wife of 34 years to death, so I re-visited that pain and anguish as I saw it on Don's face. There is no more intimate human relationship than that of a man and his wife. And their re-union in Heaven now is sure to be sweet at the least!

Rev. Howard R. Martis - January 28, 2017 at 04:59 PM

RO

“ One of my fondest memories of "Uncle Donald" was watching him gently take "Aunty Marilyn's" hand and walk her to to the car, open the door and help her in when they came to our Kid's graduation party. He was so in love with His bride after all those years! It's a testimony to all of us that Marriage is sacred and forever! Christ was so evident in His life and he leaves a legacy to all his family and anyone who knew him. He now again will see his bride in heaven and they will worship their Savior together until we meet again! I loved to go pick Rasberries at their house with my Mom Gayl. We looked forward to coffee and a piece of banana cake and best of all the sweet fellowship! Terry and I had pancakes on the day he passed and were so reminded of him as we poured homemade syrup on them!!! Terry and I are out of town and sorry we couldn't be there to celebrate your father's life. Our family sends our love and prayers to you all! To Joe, Lorna and Aaron including all your spouses and children! We know you will miss your father and grandfather dearly but take peace and joy knowing the Word of God says.... "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord".

Ronda - January 28, 2017 at 02:20 PM

DR

“ To Don's family: Karen and I always enjoyed visiting Don and Marilyn on their homestead. It was interesting to see him during maple syrup season and discuss his love of translating various languages in journals to English. He was always learning and his love of learning was evident in his attitude of life. A self taught man in so many ways yet loved a simple life too. We know his loss is difficult for you and we ask for God's peace be with you. Dan and Karen Richards

Daniel Richards - January 28, 2017 at 08:44 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Donald J. Wixtrom.*



January 27, 2017 at 06:58 PM



“ *Aaron: So sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He is now at peace.*

Ron Kulie, Estero, Florida

Ron Kulie - January 27, 2017 at 06:16 PM



“ *I remember Don as being young at heart and having a great sense of humor. He and Marilyn often hosted hayrides and sledding parties at their house, and he was always good for a rousing game of volleyball at the school. When he taught Spanish as an adult education class, Grandma Mae, Anna Mitchell, and I rode there together. We had a lot of fun, and we probably even learned something. But what I will always remember him for is the time he brought Aaron over to my house when I was living alone with my children and they split all my wood for me. No one asked them to come; they just showed up. He didn't get any earthly reward for that, but I think he will be greatly rewarded in heaven. I hope so anyway, because for that I have always been and will always be grateful. My heart goes out to you - Joe, Lorna, and Aaron.*

Louise Laakso Hautamaki - January 27, 2017 at 05:31 PM

CL

“ Gail and I really enjoyed the Christmas letter that Don and Marilyn sent out. I also remember sitting at their kitchen table trying to learn Spanish. We are very sorry for your loss.

Chuck Laakso - January 27, 2017 at 05:04 PM

LC

“ Love and prayers to you all. I know your Dad/Grandpa will be missed. He sure was a special guy and I have fond memories of him.

Love,
Leah Janofski Collins (Jason, Judah and Abby, too)

Leah Collins - January 27, 2017 at 04:28 PM

LB

“ My greatest memory of Donald was the loving ways he had of treating his "bride". The hand holding, loving gazes into each others eyes, (his were always sparkling.) and the laughter that filled their house was so wonderful to see. One hunting season I even saw him swoop Marylin into a dip and lay a smooch on her! Not only did they love each other and their family, but each time I showed up for a visit, they would drop everything and make me feel like I was the best thing to happen in their day. Truly the most selfless, Godly folks that ever lived. Oh, how I loved them. Joey, Lorna, and Aaron...love, hugs, kisses and prayers for you and your family. Love from Leah

Leah Wixtrom Burke - January 27, 2017 at 12:31 PM

SG

Donald and Marilyn were so welcoming to their home, got maple syrup from Donald many times and it was the best. I remember going to his place to watch Elvis perform on the ed Sullivan show for the first time. We didn't have a TV and my sister was an avid fan of Elvis. There was snacks and drinks so it was like a great party. Whenever you would see them there was always a hug and a happy greeting. Donald will be missed .shiela and lloyd glover

shiela glover - January 27, 2017 at 06:55 PM

RR

Many memories with Don and Marylin as we visited them and enjoyed laughter and the goodness of the Lord. Blessings and comfort to the family 🙏 Ruth Rivers in Redding CA

Ruth Rivers - January 28, 2017 at 06:46 AM



Our deepest sympathy in the passing of Donald. Such wonderful travel memories we have of Donald and Marilyn. They were such a cute in love couple. We so enjoyed their friendship and their welcoming hearts. We had the pleasure of continuing our friendship and visited them at their home. Always a pleasure. They sure loved their family. Our caring thoughts and prayers. Dan and Sue Passamani, Iron River, MI.

Sue Passamani - January 29, 2017 at 05:43 PM



Our deepest sympathies to your family. We will always remember the twinkle in Don' s eye as he watched all the grandchildren at family gatherings. Kay Wagner and Mick and Michele Seitz and family

Michele Seitz - January 29, 2017 at 06:56 PM

BN

Joe, Lorna, and Aaron - our deepest sympathies to you and your families. Donald was one of the kindest men I ever knew. He always hugged and welcomed me wherever we met up. They were definitely a couple in love and it showed. He is smiling now being reunited with his love. Our prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Beverly Erickson Carriere, Henderson, NV - February 01, 2017 at 09:50 PM

DO

iINTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY.

I was amazed with his ability to interpret sooo many languages. He lived at the end of the road, except if we wanted to go fishing in the Michigamme River we had to walk by /through his field. remember the entrance to the house up the stairs. How did they survive? See them in Church. The hunters, the maple syrup, pulp,the farm. Wow.

Doug - January 19, 2018 at 01:53 PM