



Donald Larsen

August 5, 1928 - September 24, 2018

Donald Larsen, age 90, of Oro Valley, Arizona formerly of Storm Lake, Iowa died on Monday, September 24, 2018 in Oro Valley, Arizona.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hope Evangelical Free Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Lone Tree Cemetery in Sioux Rapids. Visitation will take place Wednesday, October 17, 2018 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Donald B. Larsen was born on August 5, 1928 in Sioux Rapids, the son of Earl and Edith (Carlberg) Larsen. Don was the youngest of three sons. He was baptized and confirmed at the Congregational Church in Sioux Rapids.

Don was a member of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church in Catalina, Arizona as well as Hope Evangelical Free Church in Storm Lake.

Don graduated from Sioux Rapids High School in the class of 1946. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Buena Vista University in 1950 and a Master of Science Degree in theoretical mathematics from Notre Dame University in 1965. Additionally, Don attended the University of Kansas, and supplemented his studies at Drake University, Iowa State University, the

University of South Dakota, and the University of Northern Iowa.

In 1948, Don met Frankie F. Heikens, of rural Everly, on a blind date at the Cobblestone Inn in Storm Lake. They were married on July 30, 1950 at the Congregational Church in Sioux Rapids. Together, they were blessed with two sons, Steven and Bruce. The family spent its early years together in Linn Grove and Laurens before moving to Storm Lake in the summer of 1960.

Don taught high school mathematics for 33 years, including four years at Linn Grove, six years at Laurens, and 23 years at Storm Lake High School, before assuming the position of Associate Professor of Mathematics at Buena Vista University in 1983. He taught mathematics and computer science at BVU until his retirement in 1993. Don's students were always the first priority in his professional life. He thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow in their knowledge of mathematics by building their confidence and challenging them to excel. A talented classroom instructor, Don was known and appreciated for his disciplined and methodical approach to education.

Don volunteered his time by serving on the Storm Lake Airport Commission. He was a member of the Lions and Optimist Clubs. He also gave freely of his time to various church activities.

Don took pleasure in many hobbies. His favorite pastimes included woodworking, fishing, bowling, golfing, playing cards, coin collecting, genealogy, gardening, reading, photography, designing and making stained glass windows, and following his favorite college football and basketball teams. Donald loved traveling the world with Frankie, especially to Alaska, Canada, China, Europe and Hawaii. In retirement, the couple enjoyed spending winters at their Oro Valley, Arizona home.

Don will be remembered as a caring husband and father whose family was at

the center of his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his children, Steven Larsen of Tucson, Arizona and Bruce Larsen (John Mandelbaum) of Highland Park, Illinois, extended family and many friends.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Frankie; his parents; and his brothers, Dale and Earl "Doc".

The family suggests memorials to the Don and Frankie Larsen Endowed Scholarship Fund, Buena Vista University, c/o University Development and Alumni Engagement, 610 W. 4th St., Storm Lake, Iowa 50588. Online condolences may be sent to fratzkejensen.com/obituaries.

Cemetery Details

Lone Tree Cemetery

Sioux Rapids, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Service

OCT 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hope Evangelical Free Church
2015 W. Milwaukee Ave.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Tribute Wall



“ Sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful teacher. I had him at Storm Lake Senior over 40 years ago.

Leigh Harrington-Schriber - October 19, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 17, 2018 at 10:19 AM

CM

“ Dear Stevrn & Bruce,
I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. He was a teacher in Laurens & taught me science & chemistry. To this day, whenever I hear a quiz show relating to those subjects, I think of him & how much I learned in spite of myself. He was just so good at teaching.



And he was always teaching. When my friend worked at the swimming pool in the summers with him, I remember him showing us a test tube with water in it & explaining the miniscus to us.

I
He & your mother were so good to attend our class reunions (class of '59), & your mother was a sweetheart. They were a very good match, & Don was so great while she was sick. We always referred to him as Donald B., but it was a respectful nickname, which we did not address him face- to-face. It was Mr. Larsen in class.

We have visited him in St. Lake & AZ the past few years, & he was always so glad to visit with us. He was also so proud of you two boys. He once expressed regret he worked so much & gave up time with you boys as children. I told him he should not feel bad about that, as it allowed his boys to have a stay-at-home mom, which is a very coveted privilege for many mothers, including my daughters.

I know u will miss him. He lived his life well, however, & was a great example to his family & friends. A nicer man I have not met.

God bless,
Carol Woodin Mayberry : 1:

Carol Woidin Mayberry - October 16, 2018 at 09:58 PM

TW

“ *My condolences to the Family*

Steven and Bruce you are in my thoughts and prayers. I am so sorry for your loss.



When I first Don it did not take long for me to see he was a man of Integrity. He saw the good in people. He was kind and caring. He was always so excited to see his family and friends. I saw the love that he had for his sons.

He shared stories about his Professional Life and spoke often of his students. He remembered them all. He said he was known for being very disciplined and tough.

I remember the day when he thought he was going to teach me math. Lets just say I was not a good student. I will remember his smile and sense of humor.

May God's peace be with you.

Donald Larsen you will be in our hearts forever.

Terri

Terri Wahlstrom - October 09, 2018 at 06:48 AM

HH

“ To the family of Don Larsen.
I had Don Larsen as my math teacher
In Linn Grove also. He was a very good
Math teacher. I graduated in 1953 from
Linn Grove. Enjoyed visiting with him
At the many class reunions we had.
Harold Hanson. Sun City West, AZ

Harold Hanson - October 06, 2018 at 09:23 PM

JM

“ To the family of Don Larsen, you all have my thoughts and prayers.
I had Don for a math teacher in Linn Grove, back in the 1950's. He
was a real great
teacher. He was a tough one too. But he made you learn, that is for
sure.
I knew his Dad and Uncle that ran the hardware store in Sioux
Rapids (Earl and Evans
I believe). My wife were married in 1959 and we bought all of our
kitchen appliances
(which were Frigidare) they lasted for ever. I think maybe he had
a brother (Dale??)
that had a hardware store in Linn Grove, if I remember right.
Don and I had a lot of great visits at the Linn Grove school reunions,
which the attended
most of the time. Anyhow he was a Great Man. Jerry McKeever

Jerry McKeever - October 03, 2018 at 04:45 PM

JR

“ I was so fortunate to teach at Storm Lake High school and become a friend of Don Larsen who taught near my room. He "ran a tight ship" but was highly respected by his students who appreciated his math/computer knowledge. He not only was admired by his students, but also highly respected by faculty members with whom he taught.

Don served as a mentor to me while at Storm Lake High School as I acquired a "huge interest" in computers He always took time to answer my questions as I frequently "bugged" him for guidance.

May God grant his family strength during this difficult time!!

*Jim Rode, English Instructor
SLHS 1973 - 1989*

James A. Rode - September 30, 2018 at 04:57 PM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of "Mr. Larsen." (I could never call him Don---he was my high school math teacher!) He was an excellent teacher who cared about learning. He ran a tight ship, but his class never seemed anything but challenging and (almost) fun! He was one of those teachers that many of us enjoyed hearing from on Facebook in these last few years. He seemed to remember us well. I never had a better teacher, even in college or graduate school. My heart goes out to his family---this is a sad time. Liz Edson Block, Ames, Iowa

Liz Block - September 26, 2018 at 11:44 AM