



Donald Rutledge

August 11, 1939 - December 5, 2020

DONALD RUTLEDGE
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

Donald Rutledge, 81, passed away peacefully at home in Evansville, Indiana on Saturday, December 5, 2020.

Born to Henry and Vera (Hanes) Rutledge on August 11, 1939, in Stewartsville, Indiana, Don graduated as valedictorian from Poseyville High School in 1957 and attended Evansville College (U of E). He was proud of having warmed the bench for Coach Arad McCutchan as a freshman. He was an avid University of Evansville Aces fan for 63 years and a New York Times Crossword fanatic.

Don never forgot a face or the name that went with it. He was known for his dry wit and was loved by all who knew him.

Don worked at Municipal Engineering for over 30 years, and retired as a founding partner from Riverbend Mechanical. After retirement, Don enjoyed delivering flowers, and was a cherished member of the Flowers & More family for almost 15 years.

Surviving are his wife: Priscilla (Cottrell) Rutledge; daughter: Terri Lyn Rutledge (Tooley) of Greenbelt, Maryland; brothers: Larry Rutledge of Evansville, Indiana and Roger Rutledge (Tonya) of Poseyville, Indiana; sisters: Mary Sue Rutledge and Linda Lou Straw both of Owensboro, Kentucky and much-spoiled granddaughters: Ursula Tooley of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

and Maia Tooley of Greenbelt, Maryland.

Preceding him in death were his parents; father and mother-in-law: George and Mildred Cottrell and a much-loved son-in-law: Craig Tooley.

A celebration of life for the family will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley, 3540 Washington Avenue, Evansville, Indiana 47714 or online at: rmhcohiovalley.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Rutledge*

October 06, 2023 at 09:05 AM

DB

“ Don and I were smart enough to marry the youngest of the beautiful Cottrell girls (there were five of them!). He and Priscilla were high school (junior high?) sweethearts, and among the first soon-to-be relatives I met in Poseyville.

We both married in 1959, and quickly were welcomed into the large, loving Cottrell clan. Over the years a tradition developed on Black Friday, after Thanksgiving, when Pris and my wife, Nancy, who are both afflicted with the shopping gene, traipsed from one small shop to another, in Evansville, New Harmony, and Henderson, abandoning their Dons to standing guard until it was time to carry packages to the car.

As Nancy and I moved from Evansville—to Indianapolis, Cleveland, Washington, Richmond, and part-time to Brooklyn--Don and Pris visited, where we enjoyed showing them the sites, from Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, or the top of the World Trade Center. We shared a memorable vacation in New England, eating lobster on waterfront decks, visiting JFK’s home on Cape Cod and wandering the small towns of Vermont.

Don and Priscilla mostly stayed put, except for a brief time when Don took a job in Kokomo. At that time we were living in Indy, so we got to babysit Terri for a while.

While we were living in Bethesda, Maryland, Terri and Craig moved to Greenbelt, where he literally was a rocket scientist at NASA, which gave us additional opportunities to unite our growing families. But most often we got together for impromptu family reunions in Poseyville, holidays at the Red Geranium and Kennel Club and, for the four of us, breakfasts at the Cross-eyed Critic, Merry-Go-Round, and Cracker Barrel, and dinners at the Haub House and Gerst Bavarian House

Through it all Don provided the calm balance to the noisy conversations, interjecting with his droll sense of humor. Unlike some of us, he didn’t say everything he knew, which was a lot. Don was the best kind of brother-in-law, and we’ll miss him every day.

--Don Baker

Don Baker - December 28, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ *Great memories of the fun times we had in the 70's at Village Inn Pizza. Sorry for your loss Priscilla and Terri. Also the years of Mike working with Don at Municipal Engineering.
Sincerely, Mike and Sandy Hollman*

Sandy Hollman - December 14, 2020 at 10:36 AM

JA

“ *My deepest condolence to Terri and Priscilla with their loss. I have great memories of spending time with Terri and her parents on Taft Avenue and Harper Grade School. Later on in my life, I ran into Mr. Rutledge as he delivered medications to some of my home care patients. I definitely knew it was him, even though I had to explain who I was! Fondest memories of my grade school and high-school activities and friendship with Terri.
Julie (Whipkey)Alley.*

Julie Whipkey Alley - December 12, 2020 at 07:08 PM

ML

“ *I will miss your wonderful hugs and calming spirit Uncle Donnie. I love you & will see you in Heaven someday. 💙*

Melissa Lagoo - December 12, 2020 at 06:38 PM