



## Donald G. Andersen Sr

April 5, 1932 - July 7, 2017

Donald G. Andersen Sr.(85) died July 7, 2017 at home surrounded by his family. He was born in

Red Willow, Canada on April 5,1932 to Gerald and Mabel Andersen. He spent his youth in Washington and California before settling in Oregon City, Oregon.

Don is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joan Andersen; his children Denise Andersen Rolen(Roger), Debbie Rutledge (Rick), Donald Andersen Jr. (Jennifer); his sisters Beck Smith,

Dixie Livingston (Al); his grandchildren Andy Rolen (Desiree), Morgan Fetzner (John), Donald Andersen III (Chelsea), Bailey Andersen, Tanner Rutledge and his 3 little greats Nora,

Reed and Brooks.

Don graduated from Oregon City High School in 1950. He married his high school sweetheart

Joan Smith, September 9,1951. Don began working at Crown Zellerbach at the age of 16.

He

joined the U.S.Navy in 1951, serving six years. After returning from the service he returned to

his job at the mill. While working at the mill he attended Portland State University.

In 1962 he started his teaching career at Gardiner Junior High in Oregon City. He taught Social

Studies, coached football and wrestling. He loved working with kids and they loved him. In 1972

he moved to Oregon City High School where he worked as a Work Experience Coordinator. He

placed countless students in jobs and careers throughout the community of Oregon City.

Don served on the Oregon City Commission for 2 terms and enjoyed his time serving as mayor.

If he believed a change was good for the people of Oregon City he would stay focused and put

in whatever was necessary to make improvements for the city and its people.

After retiring from Oregon City School District in 1991 he was elected to the Oregon City School

Board. He served on the school board for 12 years always putting children first and helping support teachers.

Don was born to serve others. He continued volunteering on the Mt View Cemetery Board and

putting in endless hours of time with his beloved Oregon City Optimist Club. He loved the clubs

commitment to our Oregon City Youth.

Grandpa may have been his greatest job title. He loved and supported his grandkids, slipping

them a little cash now and then, taking them to his mountain, or maybe a plane ticket to his

cabin in Alaska for a fishing adventure. The great grandkids had a special place in his heart.

Don's service will be Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Oregon City Evangelical Church at 2:00 pm. A

reception will follow at the Pacific Crest Ballroom (Oregon City Elks).

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions be sent to Oregon City Optimist

Club, PO Box 1301, Oregon City, 97045

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL 13. 2:00 PM (PT)

Oregon City Evangelical Church  
1024 Linn Ave.  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
<http://ocec.net>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald G. Andersen Sr*

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *My sympathy to the family*

*Don was a nice man and I remember he helped my brother get a job at farmer's insurance and he still works there!!  
Joan worked with my mom at Sears in OC shopping center.  
He influenced and helped many people in his life ! May God comfort the family.  
Sincerely, Laura (Watt) Lange.*



**laura lange** - July 24, 2017 at 10:59 PM



“ *Mr Anderson's passing was a loss for his family, friends and to the City of Oregon City. Thank you Mr Anderson for the students you taught and guided and your leadership of this historic town.*

**Jerry Peterson** - July 14, 2017 at 12:22 PM



“ *Last August Don agreed to endorse me in my run for the City Commission of Oregon City. I was completely honored to include his name in my voters pamphlet statement, especially from such a respected member of our community. His kind and unselfish reputation preceded him. Praying for the family and friends he left behind to remember the good times with Don.*

**Nancy Ide** - July 12, 2017 at 09:15 PM



“ *Don was my Boss (Mayor), and I fished beside him, Eddie, Raymond and Donny for many years. Always a great person & friend. Our Prayers are with Joan and the Family. Dick & Beth Martin.*

**Dick & Beth Martin** - July 11, 2017 at 10:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald G. Andersen Sr.*



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July 11, 2017 at 03:31 PM

JK

“ *I had the good fortune to meet Don many years ago. I knew him as a co-worker, Optimist Club member, hunting partner, camp mate, and mentor. He was utterly dedicated to his family, community and friends. His kindness and generosity are well known in Oregon City. He told me more than once that doing good deeds was an important part of his life. I witnessed his thoughtful and caring good deeds often. His family carries on that tradition. Peace and good will to all who knew this special man.*

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**Joseph Koziol** - July 10, 2017 at 11:20 PM

EA

*So sorry to hear about Don sr. Got to fish around him Donny, Eddie and Ray for many years always looked up to them, will always remember the four of them anchored under the steel bridge. GOOD TIMES*

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**Ed Atkinson** - July 12, 2017 at 09:51 AM

SJ

“ *Where to begin, so many things needs to be said. A smile that warmed you and made you feel like you mattered. A man who gave so much of his life for others. He reached out to so many students and adults in Oregon City. When he believed in cause he would work hard for us to have a better life. He never put himself first. We are much richer for having Don on this Earth. Now he is in Heaven , I bet he is the person who is working with St Peter now welcoming everyone with the warm smile.*

*Sue and Jim Jagers*

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**Sue Jagers** - July 10, 2017 at 10:18 PM

TF

“ Although I did not know Don Andersen personally, he truly made the world a better place by his many outstanding contributions throughout his life. As a true role model for all of us, he showed how to care, teach, mentor, and support people and causes -- especially the young people in his life. His giving spirit even touched the Tyrone Snowden Woods Wrestling Foundation In January of this year with his donation in support of youth wrestlers. Speaking on behalf of TSWWF, we applaud your many years of civic, military, and professional service and wish your family peace as they recall good memories of their time with you.

The Tyrone S. Woods Wrestling Foundation - July 10, 2017 at 06:53 PM

AK

“ Sending our love and hugs to you Joan, Denise, Roger and family. We were so sorry to hear of Don's passing and hope that all the wonderful memories you share bring comfort to you all in the coming days. We love you and are keeping you in our prayers❤️🙏



AI & Connie Kitzmiller - July 10, 2017 at 06:12 PM

WB

“ I wish to express my condolences to Don's family and friends. Don Taught with my father at Gardiner. I have fond memories of him going back to my grade school days! Don touched the lives of many through his teaching, his civic involvement and his volunteer activities. I leaves a hole in the fabric of Oregon City.

William Becker - July 10, 2017 at 04:11 PM