



Donald Gene Kothe

June 24, 1934 - October 8, 2020

On Thursday, October 8, 2020, Donald Gene Kothe was called home to his Lord and Savior at the age of 86. He was born on June 24, 1934 in Salisbury, MO to parents Wilma Alita Bliefnick, and Orvil Henry Kothe. Don graduated from Salisbury High School in 1952, where he was an active leader-he was an Eagle Scout, served as FFA President, and played trumpet in the band. He actively participated on the basketball team, track team and church league baseball teams.

Don was the first member of his family to graduate from college, earning a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a focus on Animal Husbandry from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1956. While at Mizzou, Don joined the Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity, was a member of ROTC, and received recognition as a member of the Rough Nex Society, the State Farmer's Degree, and the University of Missouri Judging Team.

Following graduation, Don was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. From 1957-1959, he served as an active duty artillery officer in Ft. Sill, OK, after which he was on active reserve through January, 1969. He received an honorable discharge as a Captain.

Donald Kothe married Sherra Do Foard in Poplar Bluff, MO on January 29, 1956. He is survived by his wife, Sherra Do, and four children, Kerrye

(husband Jon Foley), Kandye (husband, Scott Dille), Doug (wife, Adrienne), and David (wife, Julia).

Don's career began with Wilson & Co., a meat packing company, where he worked from 1959-1969. He went on to become the manager of the Macon Beef Packers (1969-1976). Don served as a Territory Manager of Hesston TM, a farm and agricultural equipment company(1977-1984), followed by a supervisory position at Banquet Foods(1984-1987), finishing his career working for AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans). Don and Sherra Do retired to Lake of the Ozarks, later making Cape Girardeau, MO their current home, near family.

Don's life centered around service to the Lutheran church, where he was an active member of the Missouri Synod. Don's commitment and dedication to his faith was evidenced in his willingness to serve where called- as a member of the Elder Board of Zion Lutheran Church in Macon, MO, as a district board member of the Missouri Synod (8 years), as an usher, a Sunday school teacher, a Sunday School Superintendent, a Stephens Minister, a choir member, a Walther League member, an acolyte and as a leader of small group Bible studies.

Don enjoyed playing golf, playing pool and bridge and following his beloved sports teams, the Missouri Tigers and the St. Louis Cardinals. Don was a Master Gardener and a Master Naturalist. He was a lifelong Republican and served as President of the Clay County Republicans and Campaign Manager for several Republican candidates. In addition, Don participated in Missouri State Republican conventions.

Don was a much-loved grandfather of eleven grandchildren and great grandfather of seven. For his grandkids in particular, visions of hot summer days at the lake with Papa Don at the helm of his boat - ball cap perched atop

his head, inner tube pulling them as fast as they could go across the choppy water, laughter filling the air - will forever be cherished.

A Celebration of Life gathering is planned for 2021. You will be missed by all who knew and loved you, Don Kothe, and now it's time to enter His rest. You have fought the good fight, you have finished the course, you have kept the faith! (2 Timothy 4:7).

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *Dear Kothe family*

It was truly a treasure to get to know Don through the years. When I was first called to serve Zion Lutheran Church in Macon, Don was an elder on the board and instrumental in getting my first call to serve and a pastor in the Missouri District of the Missouri Synod. Thanks to that I was able to begin and serve my complete ministry in Macon and Lois and I still reside there. Our kids Ben and wife Katie live in Macon with their two kids. Laura and Barron and their triplets live in Columbia. Nick and his wife also live in Macon. Ben (with the city of Macon) and Nick (with Macon Electrical Cooperative) are linemen and with climate change and severe weather have made a number of trip to Louisiana and Florida to make repairs following our rash of hurricanes. Laura works for MU health systems in Columbia. I wish you all well and think of you from time to time. Thank you Sherra Do for all the wonderful organ music and blessings you brought to Zion in the time you were here. It has not and will not be forgotten. Don will be missed by many.



GENE STUEVE - October 16, 2020 at 02:46 PM

JZ

“ I will never forget being at Millstone at Lake of the Ozarks. The Kothe and Wells get-together in the summer of '79 or '80? Nice afternoon, so the kids let the adults, aka Don & Sherra Do, Don & Barbara (Barbwire) take the boat out. Soon realized not a good decision. Soon, a huge thunderstorm overtook the area. Next thing I see is Don Kothe skiing across the main channel of the lake! Khaki PANTS, Jimmy Buffet style shirt and his bucket hat. The biggest smile on his face, too! IN THE PORING RAIN! We are looking upward and smiling at you Don Kothe! Thank you for such sweet memories.



Janet Zust - October 14, 2020 at 10:52 PM

GN

“ I worked with Don as a fellow District Representative with Aid Association for Lutherans. I didn't realize that this was just a small part of his life and I see why he had such dedication to serving the members of the congregations he was assigned. Don always showed how much he sincerely cared for them. I always appreciated his input at our training meetings and tried to follow his precepts. Joyce and I so much enjoyed our friendship during these years and send our sympathy to Sherra Do and family. Love you guys. GERRY & JOYCE NIERMAN

Gerald Nierman - October 10, 2020 at 08:07 AM

SC

“ I remember tie dying Mr Kothe's underwear, in koolaid, and running it up the flag pole! He thought it was hilarious! He never said much around us girls, but when he did you wanted to listen! Love & prayers to the family! He will be missed.

Sharon Thompson Cook - October 09, 2020 at 09:32 PM

JC

HE WAS A GOOD MAN. YOU ALWAYS KNEW WHAT HE STOOD FOR AND HE WAS ALWAYS POLITE IN HIS MANNER..

JAMES CERVA.

JAMES CERVA - October 10, 2020 at 09:50 AM

TW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to the family!*

Tim Welch - October 09, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ *Don Kothe was an absolute gem. He befriended me when I was a new representative at AAL. I particularly remember his kindness in reaching out to me in Christian love when my young daughter was sick, and reminding me of God provision and promise to never leave or forsake me. I affectionately called Don the "Silver Fox" and I think he understood that it came with a good deal of admiration. My sympathy to all who who and loved him, especially Sherra Do. I am confident he was met at Heaven's gate with the words "Well done good and faithful servant"!*

Steven Hatesohl - October 09, 2020 at 05:28 PM

MB

Sherra Do and family, we were so very sorry to hear of Donald Gene's passing. He was one of those guys you just like immediately upon meeting. I recall both of you making me feel very welcome when I was new to the family. Please know that we are thinking of all of you in prayer. God Bless.

Mary and Gary Bliefnick

Mary Bliefnick - October 15, 2020 at 09:43 PM