



Donald W. Spooner

June 24, 1931 - March 26, 2022

Donald W. Spooner of Lake Bluff, IL, passed away on March 26, 2022, at the age of 90. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Mary Ann Spooner nee Sornson; daughters Alice (Shannon) Kramer and Andrea (Dan) Stromsland; six grandchildren, Matthew, Breanna and Dylan Kramer, Rachel Stromsland (Steve) Jones, Alyssa and Brooke Stromsland, and great-granddaughter Lilah Jones.

Don was the only child of Martha and Maynard Spooner, and grew up in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He earned his B.A. in Education at Iowa State Teachers College, and after teaching for one year was drafted into the Army, where he served for two years. He then attended the University of Iowa and graduated in 1957 with his M.A. in Social Studies Education. In his early days of teaching, he was granted a Fulbright Scholarship, which enabled him to spend a summer studying history at the University of Poona in India. Don was a well-respected social studies teacher and department chairman at Lake Forest High School for thirty years, until he retired in 1993.

Don was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, where he was a Deacon, sang in the Adult Choir, and once he retired, volunteered weekly in the rummage room sorting donations. Don had many interests and enjoyed traveling extensively. He looked forward to spending summers with family relaxing at his cabin in the mountains outside Glacier

National Park in Montana. He also loved genealogy and spent countless hours tracing his family history. Additionally, he was an avid collector of political buttons, postage stamps and depression glass. He enjoyed going to flea markets, antique shops and stamp shows to add to his numerous collections.

A Memorial Service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, 700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL, on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow the service at the First Presbyterian Church's Memorial Garden. For information – Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com

The Funeral Mass will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in-person at:

[:https://firstchurchlf.online.church/](https://firstchurchlf.online.church/)

Memorial contributions may be made in Don's name to the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
700 North Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Interment

APR 9 (CT)

First Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden
700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Tribute Wall

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“ This wonderful man made a difference in so many lives. As a student, I remember "General Spooner" taking small groups from our class on day-trips to Chicago where he would bring history and architecture to life with his stories and observations. He taught us to pause and pay attention to small details in a sometimes chaotic world, and to appreciate the many gifts left to us by past generations. To this day, it's impossible to walk by the Tribune Building without stopping to marvel at the artifacts embedded in its walls. This man had a passion for history and a depth of knowledge that was truly amazing. So easy to see why he was selected as a Fulbright Scholar. I remember him as a consummate professional yet also a man of kindness. There always seemed to be just the hint of a smile with almost everything he did. It was contagious. We were so fortunate to have this man with us as a teacher and guide through our tumultuous teenage years. To his family, we offer our deepest thanks for sharing him with us. He will truly be missed, but always remembered.

Joe Farago - Class of 1966 - April 06, 2022 at 07:08 PM

JF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joe Farago - April 06, 2022 at 05:55 PM

AN

“ This was a great and good man. He held his classes rapt and at attention. Not because he had his army helmet placed on the florescent lighting fixture over his lectern. Not because he referred to his class hours as "platoons." And not because he would tell us to "stack arms" or admonished us at the bell with "No one dismissed you yet." But because of his gentle and absorbing teaching style. Even the quiet ones in class would be motivated to raise their hands and participate. Much of what he taught us I can still recall. The most memorable moment of the Class of 1969 reunion a year and a half ago was the 15 minutes I spent with the General. I can still remember whole lectures. I reminded him of his telling of a class how he attended a lecture course taught by Alexander Kerensky, the president-minister of the Russian government between the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II and the Bolshevik revolution and whose loose dentures caused him to spit on the first row of students. The General leaned toward me and said: "He was not a good man."

It was because of him I considered teaching. I joined FTA and was assigned to him. I graded papers and prepared lessons until the day came that he told me I was to teach a session of his honors class in European history. That was the end of my teaching ambitions! But it doesn't matter. I was never fired up much about history until he came into my life. Now I read history voraciously. Thanks, General Spooner!

anonymous - April 04, 2022 at 03:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Remembering Don Spooner



Mark Melichar - March 29, 2022 at 05:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Remembering Don Spooner



Mark Melichar - March 29, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ As a department leader, it was always wonderful listening to Don's insights. I totally enjoyed coaching Andrea & Alice! They were so supportive of their teammates! Best of all was just talking to the family! Love you all, Wendy (Willard) Antrim

Wendy Antrim - March 29, 2022 at 04:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Melichar - March 29, 2022 at 04:11 PM



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Mark Melichar - March 29, 2022 at 04:10 PM

AW

“ Once upon twenty years ago I was in Donald's basement with his daughter and my great friend Alice, and found a nearly-finished painting of Henry VIII. As a Brit and Tudor history junkie, this was a big deal - it was and is stunning. A few weeks later this piece of art painted by Don was gifted to me because he knew I would love it more than he did. I had it professionally framed, and it hangs in my house today.

Love to the entire family. May you be blessed with reminders of Don in the blow of the wind, rustles of leaves, and shadows dancing on the walls.

Amanda and Pat

Amanda Welsby - March 29, 2022 at 09:35 AM