



Donald Richard Syring

January 6, 1940 - October 16, 2024

Donald Richard Syring, 84 of Waldorf, Maryland, passed away on October 16, 2024. Born in Wausau, Wisconsin, January 6, 1940, the son of Richard and Bertha (Borchardt) Syring, Don grew up in Edgar, Wisconsin. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1958 and married the love of his life Janet Barnes Syring of Emporia, Virginia, on August 25, 1968. After retiring as a First Lieutenant out of Joint Base Andrews on April 1, 1978, Don filled his time with odd jobs from veterinary technician to home improvement.

Don loved life. He appreciated each day and always greeted it with joy. An early riser, who for many years enjoyed starting his day with a four mile walk around the neighborhood, amassed a great deal of friends who just knew him as “the friendly man in the hat”. While always quick to smile, he lived by the motto “don’t say, if you can’t take it back”.

Don enjoyed being outdoors. He found pride in gifting his neighbors with his beautifully landscaped yard--each flower lovingly watered and each weed carefully pulled. It was often a conversation starter.

His main love was his family. Don’s legacy will carry on in his girls, devoted sons-in-law, and grandchildren. His beloved wife was his person, and he adored her until his last breath. He was always the provider and the protector, and even toward the end when his body failed him, he wanted to help. To his

core, he was a helper, a doer. If it needed to be done, you could ask Don. He had an uncanny ability to know what you needed before you did and often would just step in and do the thing even before you asked.

Don was a lifelong Green Bay Packers fan. He was a talented crafter and builder, and during his heyday, his ceramic tile installation was worthy of praise and highly sought out. He was proud of his country and his military service. He loved animals and children who were enamored with his kind and generous spirit. Uncle Donny was often referred to as many people's favorite. He had a way to let you know he really cared but also to make you laugh. His wit and humor were unmatched, and if he teased, you knew you were special to him. He had some tried-and-true lines that I'm sure we will laugh about for years. Don enjoyed playing games and the silliness that came with them. He and Janet played Yahtzee every day for many years, and when kids or grandkids were visiting, he pulled out Trouble, Old Maid, and Crazy 8's.

To honor a man who was truly remarkable, please try to approach life as Don would, with a little kindness, a lot of hard-work, and a sense of humor.

Don is survived by his dear wife of 56 years, Janet Barnes Syring; two daughters, April (Oscar) Westgaard and Stephanie (Keith) Moody; four grandchildren, Tyler and Ella Moody, Amanda (John) Bavuso, and Ryan Westgaard; and four great grandchildren, Sofia, Jaiden, Avery, and Johnny. He is also survived by sisters, Margaret Ledbetter, Lucille Felzkowski, Ruth Hall, Nancy Thompson, and Mary Ohrmundt; and brother, Leroy (Pat) Syring.

Don is preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Bertha Syring, as well as his sisters, Wilma Hamann and Hazel Wagner and brothers, Richard Syring and Willis Syring.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Raymond Funeral Service in La

Plata, Maryland. Visitation hours will be 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, October 24 with a Celebration of Life at 7:00 pm. Don will be laid to rest at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery at 10:30 am on November 7, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Prayer Service

OCT **24**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Burial

NOV **7**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
11301 Crain Hwy
Cheltenham, MD 20623

Tribute Wall

JW

“ American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge expresses our condolences to the Syring family and friends. Donald was a 24-year member of our Post and he will be missed.

Jessica Wangner - November 03, 2024 at 12:28 PM

DB

“ Dudley and Jane Barnes purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald Richard Syring.



Dudley and Jane Barnes - October 23, 2024 at 04:55 PM

DB

“ Dudley and Jane Barnes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Richard Syring.

Dudley and Jane Barnes - October 23, 2024 at 04:55 PM

CD

“ CCPS Special Education Department purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Richard Syring.



CCPS Special Education Department - October 23, 2024 at 02:24 PM

SS

“ Sandra S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Richard Syring.

Sandra S. - October 22, 2024 at 06:24 PM

RW

“ I was a little boy who saw a man come walking down the path from grandma's house with a bushel of peaches on each shoulder for our mom to can and that day I decided I wanted to be just like him! Ten years later I joined the Marine Corps following that path i saw him on. I am proud of his example and the good I can continue to do from his examples growing up. Little Romey (Sgt. USMC) Always Faithful

Romey Wagner - October 22, 2024 at 05:44 PM

RB

“ Too the entire family of Mr.Donald.It was my honor too take of your Husband and Father. I only have the pleasure four about 4weeks. But Mr.Don was a gentle giant with a warm heart ❤️. Mrs. Janet April and Stephanie thank you for entrusting me with your love one. Visting 😊. Take your rest Mr.Don your labor on this earth 🌍 is done well done. The Bible says too be absent in the body is too be present with the lord.



Renee Booth - October 22, 2024 at 02:58 PM

PH

“ Don will always have a special place in the hearts of my wife and I. Don is and was our neighbors on Caroline Circle. He was the first friendly face to introduce himself. We received our first Christmas card from our Beautiful neighbors Don and Janet. That card meant so much to us. We used to see Don walk and ride his bike sometime twice a day. I (Phillip) will miss him dearly. Best neighbor ever. Thank you Don for loving and caring for us and our home.
Phillip and Reanata Hickman

Phillip Hickman - October 22, 2024 at 01:18 PM

LS

“ There would not be enough room on this page to put down all the special memories i have of Uncle Don. Yes, he was my favorite uncle. I have loved him dearly for all my life. One memory especially dear to my heart was that he took me to my 8th grade dance at school wearing his dress blues. Yikes! We made all my classmates jealous. And the honor i had being a bridesmaid in his and Aunt Janet's wedding. Love enduring.

Lois Schwamman - October 21, 2024 at 04:01 PM

BO

“ Don was my neighbor. We call him the mayor of Caroline Circle. Don always treated my daughter with much love. My cat tiger would go to Don's back yard and fish for his goldfish. Don was not amused. He will be missed by all. Thanks for your service and RIP



Bob - October 21, 2024 at 03:33 PM

BB

“ *Don and Janet were always so generous with their love and commitment to family. My children will always remember going to their home for Christmas and eyes wide open with all the beautiful decorations and gifts taking up almost the entire living room floor. It was always a wonderful time spent with family enjoying delicious food and love. Those days will always be special memories to me and my family. ❤️❤️*

Barbara Barnes - October 21, 2024 at 02:14 PM