

Donald Lee Unruh

July 2, 1928 - December 6, 2022

Donald Lee Unruh of Chestertown, MD died on December 6, 2022, at Chestertown Nursing and Rehabilitation Center after a brief illness. He was 94 years old.

Donald was born in Kent County, DE, on July 2, 1928, the son of the late Roland and Dora Unruh. He was the second oldest of nine. With seven brothers and one sister, there was always plenty to do on the farm.

He and his family moved to Kent County, MD, when he was twelve and he spent most of his teens working with his father, sharecropping area farms. He worked as a grain and dairy farmer until 1965 when he purchased property and began clearing land. What began as a small land-clearing job soon turned into a successful excavation business, D.L. Unruh & Son Excavating, which he owned and operated until 1987 when his son assumed the business.

Mr. Unruh was married to Theresa Mann on February 4, 1950, and together they owned and operated Unruh's Coffee Shop, in Chestertown, from the early to mid-eighties. Later they owned and operated Unruh's Carryout, a community favorite for homemade soups and chicken. Following his retirement, Donald kept busy mowing grass for the Boy Scout Camp and various farms.

Mr. Unruh's hobbies and interests followed suit with his farming background. He attended tractor pulls, repaired and collected antique tractors (two of which are featured at Kent Museum), and enjoyed going to equipment auctions with his son. He loved to dance with the Chestertown Cotillion Club, travel with his wife, listen to country music, and hunt. For many years, he could be found at McDonald's, at the break of dawn, enjoying coffee and laughs with his buddies. He was a past Liquor Inspector for Kent County, past member of the Democratic Central Committee and the Chestertown Elks Lodge, and past president of Kent County Ruritan.

In addition to his wife of 72 years, he is survived by his children, Rick Unruh, Joe Unruh (Robin), both of Chestertown, Barb Wyman (Jim) of King George, VA, and Cathy Cole (Brian) of Centreville; a daughter-in-law, Pat Unruh of Chestertown; a brother, Denny Unruh of Chestertown; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Doris Greiner. He was predeceased by his brothers, Howard, Raymond, Roland, Carl, Aubrey, and Allen; a sister: Mary, a son, Tom Unruh; a daughter, Beverly Unruh, and a grandson, Brandon Middleton.

Services will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD. Interment will be in Chester Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Kent County Museum, 13689 Turners Creek Road, Kennedyville, MD 21645 or the Kent Ruritan Club, 10844 Foreston Road, Chestertown, MD 21620.

Cemetery Details

Chester Cemetery

Chestertown, MD

Previous Events

Service

DEC 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - December 09, 2022 at 12:55 PM



“ *Donald Lee Unruh*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Donald Lee Unruh*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Donald Lee Unruh*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Barb and family. My deepest sympathy for your loss. Hugs*

Donna Lee North - December 14, 2022 at 05:11 PM

TH

“ Tammy Hall lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Tammy Hall - December 13, 2022 at 08:36 AM

TH

I will treasure the laughter and memories we all had Unruh's Coffee Shop. Rest in Peace Mr. Donald.

Tammy Hall - December 13, 2022 at 08:38 AM

TH

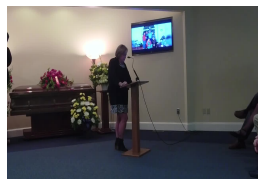
“ Tammy Hall lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Tammy Hall - December 13, 2022 at 08:32 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - December 12, 2022 at 09:47 AM

LL

“ *Linda Lane lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Linda Lane - December 11, 2022 at 11:01 PM

LL

Pop, you were my father-in-law for many years and my children's grandfather. We all loved you very much. May GOD rest your soul, love Linda

Linda Lane - December 11, 2022 at 11:03 PM

TR

“ *Fond memories of Mr. Unruh. Both he and zMrs. Theresa treated me like family. He was a good man.*



Teresa Rose - December 11, 2022 at 04:08 AM



“ *175 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - December 09, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donald Lee Unruh.



December 09, 2022 at 09:25 AM



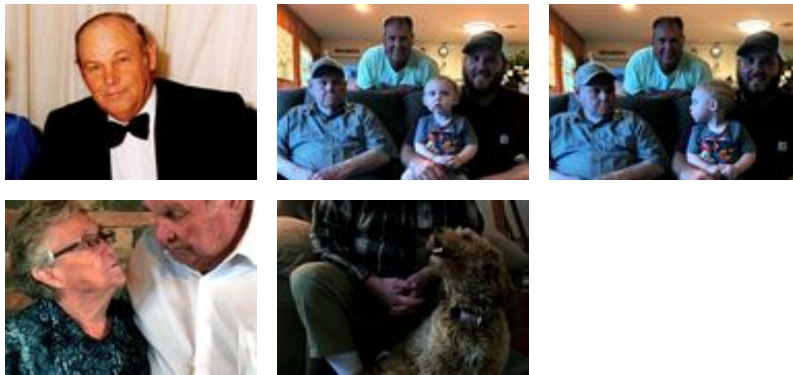
“ *John M Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



John M Larrimore - December 08, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *74 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - December 08, 2022 at 03:17 PM

CC

“ 5 files added to the album Donald Lee Unruh



Cathy Cole - December 08, 2022 at 11:52 AM

GS

“ My condolences to the Unruh family



George Short - December 08, 2022 at 09:51 AM

MA

“ Mark & Rita Anold lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Mark & Rita Anold - December 08, 2022 at 09:04 AM

MF

“ Marilyn Ford lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Marilyn Ford - December 07, 2022 at 07:35 PM

DD

“ Debbie Dalymple lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



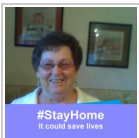
Debbie Dalymple - December 07, 2022 at 07:19 PM

JG

“ Jeff And Vicky Galt lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



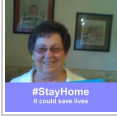
Jeff and Vicky Galt - December 07, 2022 at 07:09 PM



“ Jean Payne lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Jean Payne - December 07, 2022 at 05:29 PM



Bob and I both send our deepest sympathies to his wife and family's

Jean Payne - December 07, 2022 at 05:31 PM

JM

“ *Jessie And Bob Merritt lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Jessie and Bob Merritt - December 07, 2022 at 05:19 PM

LW

“ *Larry & Kay Wiltbank lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Larry & Kay Wiltbank - December 07, 2022 at 04:55 PM

VR

“ *Valerie Reihl lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Valerie Reihl - December 07, 2022 at 04:36 PM



“ Donald was a special man in the two years recently I’ve know him he had a great since of humor, onery and showed much love to his wife and family. He will be greatly missed and some quotes he used often will forever stick in my head. Like thanksgiving referred to as Tom turkey day, and old man winter is coming, he wished to hibernate through winter like a bear ❤️



Kimberly Pugh - December 07, 2022 at 03:54 PM

LP

“ Lee Phillips lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Lee Phillips - December 07, 2022 at 03:41 PM

JH

“ Joan Hatcherson lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Joan Hatcherson - December 07, 2022 at 02:28 PM

SM

“ Susan Martinez lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Susan Martinez - December 07, 2022 at 09:38 AM

LF

“ Thinking about all of you at this time. Prayers for everyone.



Larry Faulkner - December 07, 2022 at 09:31 AM

DD

“ Doris Ann Donovan lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh.



Doris Ann Donovan - December 07, 2022 at 09:16 AM

JK

“ Jack And Debbie Kemp lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



jack and debbie kemp - December 07, 2022 at 08:42 AM

DN

“ *Debbie And Bob Nickerson lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Debbie and Bob Nickerson - December 06, 2022 at 08:55 PM

DN

We are so sorry for your loss....

Debbie and Bob Nickerson - December 06, 2022 at 08:56 PM

MC

“ *He was the nicest man you ever want to meet*



margaret cannon - December 06, 2022 at 08:24 PM

DG

“ *Doris Greiner lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Doris Greiner - December 06, 2022 at 07:31 PM

JU

“ Lots of good memories with Mr Unruh and his lovely wife. Cooked the best food. Hugs to his family.



JuneYeager - December 06, 2022 at 05:39 PM

PM

“ To Unruh family, so sorry for the loss of your father. Thinking of you all ❤️



Paul and Terry Milash - December 06, 2022 at 05:36 PM

JW

“ Josie Wersten lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Josie Wersten - December 06, 2022 at 05:35 PM

JS

“ Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Jeanette Stubbs - December 06, 2022 at 05:17 PM

SJ

“ Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Sherrie jacobs - December 06, 2022 at 05:16 PM

SJ

Pres and I are so sorry for your loss.

Sherrie jacobs - December 06, 2022 at 05:17 PM

DS

“ Very sweet man, enjoyed our group lunches at Beverly's. So sorry for your loss,



Dwayne, Lisa Sewell - December 06, 2022 at 04:50 PM

RD

“ Randy And Debbie Davidson lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Randy and Debbie Davidson - December 06, 2022 at 04:47 PM

JS

“ Janet Seward lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Janet Seward - December 06, 2022 at 04:21 PM

MU

“ Mary Ellen Unruh lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Mary Ellen Unruh - December 06, 2022 at 03:25 PM

FL

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mr. Donald Lee's passing. Please know we are keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers. Love and hugs to all.



Frankie and Cathy Legg - December 06, 2022 at 02:27 PM

MU

“ Marie Usilton lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh



Marie Usilton - December 06, 2022 at 02:26 PM

JN

“ *Joyce Nicholson lit a candle in memory of Donald Lee Unruh*



Joyce Nicholson - December 06, 2022 at 02:17 PM