



Don Leslie Stevenson

October 31, 1943 - April 4, 2015

Don L. Stevenson, joyfully entered Heaven's gates, Saturday, April 4, 2015, the time of Easter sunrise in Jerusalem, Israel. He was 71.

Don is survived by his wife of 9 months, Penny Ingram Stevenson of Flint, TX and the mother of his children, Gail Stevenson, of Jacksonville, TX; three children, Tyler Tanner and wife Ingrid of Los Angeles, CA, Garrett Stevenson and wife Lexi of Virginia Beach, VA and daughter Paige Stevenson Dyer and husband Christopher of Tyler, TX as well as his three grandsons, Gavin Trent Stevenson, Hunter Orris Stevenson and Brady Steven Cates. He is preceded in death by his parents, B.P. and Sally Stevenson and brother, Paul Wayne Stevenson, all of Irving, TX.

Don was born in Dallas, TX on October 31, 1943. He graduated from Irving High School in 1961, Sam Houston State University in 1969 with a degree in photography; he was a member Phi Kappa Alpha. Additionally he earned his teaching certificate and completed some master's work at Stephen F. Austin State University. Don was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-1968 as an x-ray technician.

Don had two careers, the first as a journalist followed by a passion as an educator. He began his journalism career as a sports writer and photographer for The Dallas Morning News, followed by ads editor for the Polk County Enterprise, then found home in Tyler County as partner, general manager and one of the voices of Tyler County for KVLL radio in Woodville, TX from 1975-1989. During his 22 years in Tyler County he was a 2-time Rotary Club

President and Chamber of Commerce President. As the Chamber president he was actively involved in securing the Gib Lewis Prison Unit located in Woodville, which included speaking before the Texas State Legislature. Don was a contributing writer and sports editor of the Tyler County Booster. He was honored by being named Tyler County's Man of the Year and Boss of the Year. He and his son Garrett bicycled across Texas, Alabama and Mississippi, promoting the Tyler County Dogwood Festival. Don began his second career teaching 5th – 12th grades at Colmesneil ISD, followed by teaching English at Huntington High School, and retiring from Windham ISD, the Texas State Prison System. He spent his retirement years substitute teaching for and with his daughter Paige at Whitehouse High School, where his love of the students, staff, faculty and all WHS athletic teams became profound. He greeted students and friends with a hug or a fist-bump, making each and every one feel loved and appreciated. Don truly wanted to know about the person, he did so by bringing out his journalist side, he left no conversation before knowing where a person was born, went to school, attended church or what their talents and hobbies were.

Above all, Don was a lover of his Lord and Savior, his family, students, church, high school and college athletics, the Texas Longhorns and Sam Houston State University Bearkats.

A Celebration of Life concert, officiated by family friend Rev. Jim Maddox, featuring talented family and friends from Woodville, Jasper, Tyler and the DFW area as well as honored students and staff members of Whitehouse High School, will be held Sunday, April 26, 3:00 p.m. at Green Acres Baptist Church South Campus in Flint (Tyler) under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity of SHSU, members of the Woodville Rotary Club and students, staffs and faculty of Colmesneil and Whitehouse High Schools.

The Don Stevenson Memorial Scholarship has been set up through East Texas Communities Foundation (ETCF). Donations may be made online at w

www.etcf.org or make checks payable to ETCF, 315 N. Broadway, Suite 210, Tyler, TX 75702, putting Don Stevenson Memorial Fund in the memo line.

Tribute Wall



“ *Don and I grew up together. We were buddies. We were neighbors. In Irving, from the second grade through high school we went to the same schools and ran around together. He spent a lot of time in my home, and my parents and siblings loved him. I would say, after school he spent as much time in our home as he did in his own. Our parents socialized, and after I bought my first car I don't know how many times our fathers rescued us. (We would take off, on trips, and almost everytime my car would breakdown.) We cruised and dated together, and with two other boys, David and Ted, we formed a cliqued. We shared many adventures and had many stories to tell. Learning of his death was a shock. My wife and I last saw him and Pam when they came to Tucson briefly in (it must of been) in March of this year, He was his old-self.*

My grief here will be hard and long, but not as hard and long as it miust be for Pam,, Gayle, and the rest of his family. Don will be missed. I miss him. Goodby friend, buddy, chum.

At some point ... at the right time ... I'm not in a hurry it would help me to hear from someone about his trip to Israel and his death, but if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. I will always have fond memories of Don.

Randy Ford 520-889-1963 info@randyfordplaywright.com

Peggy Ford - December 13, 2015 at 12:40 PM

JF

“ Don was a special cousin. Fun times are remembered at Thanksgiving and Christmas when our families got together in Irving. As we reached adulthood, we pretty much lost contact. However, within the past ten years or so, we were able to reach other. Don was such a joy to be around; he had a special laugh that I will always remember. Don was so caring to my sister, and I appreciated the time he took to talk with her. Don will truly be missed by all those who knew him.

Janice (Jan) Stevenson Ferrell - July 26, 2015 at 06:03 PM

BC

“ Becky, Will, Laura & Charles purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Don Leslie Stevenson.



Becky, Will, Laura & Charles - April 24, 2015 at 09:53 PM



“ Distinguished Service Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Don Leslie Stevenson.



April 24, 2015 at 02:10 AM

VB

“ In the short time we knew you as our neighbor we were blessed with your friendship, generosity, humor and wisdom. Your outlook on life was always optimistic and such an inspiration to us. Perhaps the finest quality you possessed was love for your fellow man which was a direct result of your love for our Lord. Though there is an emptiness in our hearts we have comfort knowing you are in the wonderful place that has been prepared for you. (John 14 1-3) We truly miss you.

Allan and Virginia Benedetto

Virginia benedetto - April 15, 2015 at 08:49 PM

PS

“ *My Hope*
I will always love you my darling sweet angel...
I wish I could just see you one more time and hug you and tell you how much you mean to me...it is so hard without you.

I am so thankful that you did not suffer and you are home now with the Lord and your wonderful parents, brother, and other loved ones that have gone before you. Thank you Angel for honoring and loving me. My comfort is knowing that I will see you again as we serve and worship the Lord forever and ever.
Penny



Penny Stevenson - April 15, 2015 at 10:22 AM

MH

“ *Don always respected me as his mother-in law and I appreciated that through the years*

Mary Haugarth - April 14, 2015 at 11:09 AM

SP

“ Don was such a part of our life in the last few years. He became family! My mom was especially fond of Don always asking intriguing questions in Sunday School. He had an enquiring mind and never stopped learning. We will miss Don and his effervescent smile! And we thank him for being real! God bless you Penny. God bless all his family. We were all blessed to have had him as a friend!
Randy and Sue Phillips

Sue Phillips - April 13, 2015 at 08:31 PM

TF

“ Poodles, I remember the day I met Don. I thought this man was a gift fr God to make my friend so very happy. And happy you were...with every picture you posted joy beamed from your eyes.. How sad I am to see that you two did not have years and years together.. But how very happy I am to know that while you two were together that God's loving presence wrapped you in his arms and blessed you with the time you two had together. You and Don are in my prayers and in my heart.

Toni Flagg - April 06, 2015 at 07:45 PM

FR

“ Penny, I am so sorry about Don. I know you'll were so happy. Love you, Dale and Frances

Frances Rolison - April 06, 2015 at 07:19 PM

PG

*Oh Penny, I hurt for you. I am so glad you met Don and had some time with him. But, so sorry the time wasn't longer. God gave you some good times which showed in every loving picture you shared. Your memories will always be with you. My prayer is for you to feel God's arms wrapped around you sustaining you in the next few days, weeks, and months. Thank Him for the memories and love that you two shared. Prayers for you and the family. God bless. Love, Patti Greene "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:18*

Patti Greene - April 06, 2015 at 08:48 PM

HM

*Penny,
I remember seeing the happiness on both faces from the photo on Facebook. I know, though short. in our human terms, the moments you shared with Don were fulfilled ones in God's sight. I pray that you will feel God's loving, assuring, presence with your every step in the coming days.*

Harold McClain

Harold McClain - April 06, 2015 at 09:07 PM

GF

Penny, I know how happy you made Don, and how happy Don made you - I am so glad that you had this time together - Although it was short, it was full of memories, and for that I thankful. I send you all my love.

Gale Freed - April 07, 2015 at 02:59 PM

RH

Paige, Garrett, Gail and Penny -

Don was a large part of who I am today. He was willing to take a chance and hire me as a DJ at KVLL in 1978 and I earned DJ of the year, 2 years in a row. It gave me a sense of pride to be a part of that team. Doing the remote from the brand new Wal-Mart back in the day, helping at ball games - football, baseball, it didn't really matter what sport - we were all in! The Dogwood parade and all the pageantry, Western Weekend - yes, KVLL, led by Don Stevenson was right in the middle of it. Does anyone remember Swap Shop and Secret Santa that he implemented back then? It was such a fun and wonderful job! It gave me recognition that I so yearned for. It made me feel like somebody! He encouraged me to join the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) back then and I loved being a part of that group of ladies and got to be a part of speaking at an event and part of the annual pageants that were put on.

Even after all the business end of things and the myriad of events, he was first and foremost my friend. Such an inspiration and a wonderful smile and warm hug. I remember babysitting Garrett and Paige when Gail and Don needed some time away. Such lovely memories.

He was indeed a wonderful man and God fearing Christian and I know this world was a better place because of all that he brought into it. I can hear him now - calling a game from Heaven! Rest high on that mountain and enjoy that mansion and the streets of gold in the sky with our Lord and Savior - tell Mom hi for me - I know she was delighted to see you!

With love, tears, joy, memories - you have graduated to the next level - I'll see you again some day.

Rhonda Hall-Flock

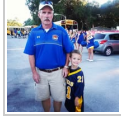
Rhonda Hall-Flock - April 08, 2015 at 06:39 AM

CB

Penny, I am so sorry for your loss. The time that you and Don had together was quality time. Lots of memories were shared that will last you a life time.

Clydia Bowser

Clydia Bowser - April 13, 2015 at 06:33 PM



I met Don when I was hired as a teacher and coach at Colmesneil. Because my degree was in journalism we had many great conversations and as a coach we always appreciated his thoughtful commentary. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Michael Lannon and family.

Michael Lannon - April 14, 2015 at 04:32 AM

KP

Many tears have fallen from my eyes, since I learned of Don passing into Jesus' Heavenly Realm. Remembering my Friendship with Don has brought a deep sadness to my heart, because I will miss him. Losing people we love is always difficult, even knowing of our "Forever" being with the Lord.

Don lived in Texas and I lived in North Carolina, so our Friendship grew from phone conversations. Our Friendship was a Special Gift from God; it was not a romantic relationship. Amazingly, this tall Texan and I seemed to be cut from the same cloth, in that we enjoyed marathon conversations, literally spending countless hours and months discussing our walk with Jesus, and a plethora of other subjects. We both wondered at times why we had been granted such Mercy and Grace to live our experiences in life. Each conversation was a new adventure, as we trusted the Holy Spirit to enlighten us with God thoughts. Not only did we share our hearts, but we laughed, cried, Prayed in the Spirit and Prophesied, as Holy Spirit was always welcome. Don was Real, a Friend to be trusted, an attribute I much appreciated. Why he ever doubted himself, I never understood, as it was abundantly clear that Jesus had imparted unto him "power, love, and a sound mind." (KJV 2 Timothy 1:7)

Don recognized his past mistakes with sorrowful repentance to the Lord, but he desired to be Blessed in marriage once again. Don had been unable to find "the one" until he met Penny. I knew his heart was rooted in Jesus, Texas, family, friends, and students. One day, I suggested, "Don, you need to find a nice Texas lady, with a tender heart for Jesus. They are pretty, smart, and you can remain in Texas." Shortly afterward, he met Penny in Houston. It was a short, sweet romance, but Don and Penny's new beginning was expected to last years, not a few months. My heart aches for the loss Penny and his family must feel. Don loved Texas style, and I Pray his Loving Heart be Remembered as the Great Gift it was!

*Happy Birthday Sweet- Tenderhearted Man!
I Miss Your Voice - Your Laughter - I Miss You!!
Your Eternal Friend, Karen Pyatt - Charlotte, NC.*

Karen Pyatt - October 31, 2015 at 10:49 PM