



Donald H. Betty

December 1, 2018

Donald H. Betty, 90, of Lancaster, died on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at Susquehanna Valley Nursing and Rehab Center in Columbia. Born in Baltimore, MD he was the son of the late Clifford A. and Olivia G. Betty. He was married to Joan Styer Betty with whom he celebrated 66 years of marriage on June 21st.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons: Clifford A. Betty of Denver, CO, husband of Barbara B. Betty; Wayne S. Betty of Mt. Joy, PA husband of Janet D. Betty, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Also surviving is a sister, Jane Winter of St. Louis, MO.

He was a member of the Donegal Presbyterian Church, the Donegal Historical Society, PA Society of Professional Engineers, Lancaster Auto Club, Lancaster Opera Co., Lancaster County Health & Welfare Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America. Also, Christiana Lodge #417 F& AM.

A 1951 graduate of Bucknell University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he worked for Armstrong World Industries for 38 years, retiring in 1989 as VP and Director of Engineering.

Known for his hobby of walking across catenary suspension bridges, he walked over 177 bridges in 19 countries and was listed in the Guinness Book

of Records. He also enjoyed his 1929 Model "A" Ford, playing the piano & fishing. He was an Eagle Scout and received the Boy Scout Silver Beaver Award. He was a member of the Tucquan Club and enjoyed playing cards and working crossword puzzles.

A Service of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday December 29, 2018 at the Donegal Presbyterian Church with a visitation from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Interment in Donegal Presbyterian Memorial Garden.

Kindly omit flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Donegal Presbyterian Church, Building Fund, 1891 Donegal Springs Road, Mount Joy, PA 17552 or Hospice & Community Care, P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA 17604.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Donegal Presbyterian Church
1891 Donegal Springs Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Celebration of Life Service

DEC **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Donegal Presbyterian Church
1891 Donegal Springs Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald H. Betty*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Thinking of you today. World's longest suspension bridge for pedestrians opened in check republic*

Heather Kemery - May 13, 2022 at 10:25 PM



“ *June Green, Dan Green and Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Donald H. Betty.*



June Green, Dan Green and Family - December 27, 2018 at 05:31 PM

JW

“ I Loved my Uncle Don, My Mother (Great Aunt Jane) adored her Big Brother. As a child Uncle Don would give us rides in his '29, we rode in the rumble seat, oh what a memory! His personality was amazing, a peoples person through and through. Generous, loving, caring, committed and concerned making everyone feel like they were his best friend. He and Wayne came to K.C back when he was still walking bridges, we walked the Pasco together pronounce (Pa-say-o) bridge crossing the Mighty Missouri. It was a cold windy night, and just a cat-walk at the time 18" wide! (for the bridge was rebuilt some years later). Uncle Don saw a penny tails up in the road a stepped off the cat walk into the highway picking up the "lucky penny" savoring the memory! Uncle Don was fearless and faced life the same way. God Bless all the family and many, many dear friends.

Jeff Winter - December 22, 2018 at 03:54 PM

JW

Paseo- Jeff

Jeff Winter - December 22, 2018 at 05:49 PM

CL

Thanks for sharing cousin!!!

Cliff - December 26, 2018 at 03:32 PM

LI

“ Donald was always so respectful of our family. When we came to church as the "Schroll" family we always had a nice conversation and he was a GREAT man to know. Most of my church going days would have been when I was 10 to 16 years old. From 1941-1947. My parents went to housekeeping in what is now the study. I had a brother and a sister that was born in that building. May God grant all of your family blessings that you need at this time. A loss such as this will take a lot of healing. God bless all of you.

Roy C. Schroll, Jr. for SCHROLL Family

Lisa - December 21, 2018 at 02:58 PM

CL

Thanks for the thoughts Roy. Cliff

Cliff - December 26, 2018 at 03:33 PM

SG

“ a good and honest man
sorry to hear about this joan, cliff and wayner
may God rest hsi soul
always liked his pronunciation of lancaster
steven green

steven I green - December 17, 2018 at 01:39 PM

CL

Thanks for the thoughts Steven...Cliff

Cliff - December 17, 2018 at 05:02 PM

CB

“ We are truly sorry to hear about your father's passing. He was a wonderful man, always fun loving with such a positive attitude. Our family wishes your family peace and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts. Someone so special can not be forgotten!

Thinking of you,

June, Claudia, Jim, Barbara and June Ann Bubb

Claudia Bubb - December 14, 2018 at 10:21 PM

CL

Thanks June. Cliff

Cliff - December 17, 2018 at 05:03 PM

LK

“ Hello: I knew Don at Armstrong, where he was one of the best, and probably the most interesting. I traveled by car with him to Appomatox and back, a long trip, but never a dull moment. I am sorry I cannot attend his life celebration, especially because there is much to celebrate. Larry Keating

LAWRENCE KEATING - December 11, 2018 at 03:30 PM

CL

Thanks for remembering Larry. Cliff

Cliff - December 12, 2018 at 03:50 PM

RG

“ Condolences to the family, you'll be in our thoughts and prayers. I worked in the machine shop at the Lancaster Plant and played softball for Don when we played the big against Marietta Engineers. He is a great Guy!
Randy Grimm

Randy Grimm - December 07, 2018 at 10:17 AM

CL

Thanks Randy, we appreciate the thoughts. Cliff

Cliff - December 07, 2018 at 10:46 AM

KL

“ This is Casey Laster, Jim Laster's son who lives near Pittsburgh, PA. What a group of friends they were; Donald, Hack, Craven, Lob (Laster), Bill George, and Duffy! On behalf of the entire Laster clan, (mostly in CA) we will miss him terribly. I remember so many times with them and Donald specifically, too many to relate here, what a loss! I hope to make the service and pass along many stories.

The Laster Family

Kevin Laster - December 05, 2018 at 06:01 PM

CL

Casey...we could get all the kids together and write a book on our fathers and their escapades together from elementary school on. I especially liked and admired the fact that they got together practically every year. What a crew. Cliff

Cliff - December 06, 2018 at 04:21 PM

SS

“ Wayne and Jan,
Sorry to read about your dad's passing. You and your family are in
our thoughts and prayers.

Sam and Terry Stoner

Sam Stoner - December 05, 2018 at 05:42 PM

CL

Thanks much Sam. Cliff

Cliff - December 06, 2018 at 04:10 PM

EJ

“ My heart sank when I read that Don had passed! It really did. He was our first plant manager and an outstanding leader! I have many memories of this wonderful man.

Don was an outstanding Plant Manager!!!

When the first board went into the dryer back in 1970, I heard this voice behind me say, "There it goes!" I turned around and it was Don!!! The smile on his face was priceless!

Nancy Hopple asked me to say the prayer before our meal at an awards banquet at the Host once. When I was finished, Don came up to me and said, "Jonesy, if any one woulda told me you were gonna have the prayer tonight, I wouldn't have believed them!" "When did you learn to pray like that?"

He came to our church years ago and gave his story of all the bridges he walked all over the world!!!

When I told him, once, that we were going to San Francisco, he got so excited and made me promise to walk the Golden Gate Bridge. I told him I didn't think I could. He got real serious and begged me to promise that I would!!!

So, I told him I would and I did back in 2000.

He told me that when he walked it, he witnessed a girl jumping off the bridge at the middle.

He was one of those men that I would have chosen to be my Dad!!!

Edmund Jones - December 05, 2018 at 04:34 PM

CL

He was very proud to have been chosen to put the ceiling plant together, pick the staff and get it running profitably. The girl that jumped, didn't make it. But on another bridge walk, he talked a guy out of jumping. He ended up walking 177 bridges. Thank you Edmund for sharing some memories. Cliff

Cliff - December 06, 2018 at 04:09 PM

BJ

“*Joan, Cliff and Wayne,
I'm so sorry for your loss. I have very nice memories of Don. He was a great man.
With Deepest Sympathy,
Bobby Dunkelberger*

Bob Dunkelberger Jr - December 05, 2018 at 04:37 AM

CL

Thanks for your thoughts Bobby. Cliff

Cliff - December 05, 2018 at 01:49 PM

DF

“ Miss Joan, Clifford & Wayne, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. He was a great man, and even though we lost touch with your family many years ago, every now and then I would hear something about Don and his bridge walks.

I have so many fond memories of growing up next door to you all in Strasburg and oh the fun times we had in that Model A Ford. There was one that he would let us play in and there was one that he took us on special rides. I will forever cherish those days we spent as neighbors. I think my love of classic cars actually started with him taking us on those special drives when we got to sit in the Rumble seat!

Of course one of my very special memories was the gigantic train layout he had in the basement. I still to this day love model railroads and of course the Strasburg Rail Road.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all as you mourn his passing.

Denise Freeman



Denise Freeman - December 04, 2018 at 11:20 AM

CL

Denise... We did have a lot of fun as kids in Strasburg. Cos still has the Model A and his basement is filled with trains. I hope you and yours are well. Thanks for sharing some memories.

Cliff

Cliff - December 04, 2018 at 05:36 PM

LV

“ *Memories! Many - As as my former boss, as a plant manager associate, upon my replacing him upon retirement from Armstrong, and most of all, as a great friend. He was one to always "lighten up the room" where ever he was. He enjoyed life to the fullness, was kind, never negative, and sensitive to the needs of others. He will be missed by all.*

Our condolence to Joan, Wayne, Cliff, and their families. You can be proud of his accomplishments in life, as a loving husband, and as a father. Lou and Pat Varljen

Lou and Pat Varljen - December 04, 2018 at 11:12 AM

CL

Thanks for the kind words Lou. Cliff

Cliff - December 04, 2018 at 05:21 PM

BS

“ *Condolences to the family. I rember Don was a railway train enthusiast and in the mid 1970's he drove to Montreal and left his car in my driveway so he and family could take THE CANADIAN TRAIN to Vancouver. One of the nicest people I met during my Armstrong career.RIP.*

Brian Sinclair - December 04, 2018 at 10:02 AM

CL

Wow...DH taught me how to play cribbage on that 3 day ride across Canada. Thanks Brian. Cliff

Cliff - December 04, 2018 at 04:11 PM

GB

“ *When I saw Don's smiling face in the Lancaster newspaper online version, so many memories came back. As a little girl, I can remember Don's hearty laugh, smiling face, and positive energy whenever he came into contact with us kids at First United Methodist. My sympathies to the Betty family and particularly to Joan.*



Gail Burnaford - December 04, 2018 at 08:21 AM

CL

Thank you Gail. Cliff

Cliff - December 04, 2018 at 04:15 PM

DZ

Dear Cliff,

The weather on Monday was unusually warm. I needed to get all the wet leaves off my lawn and into a pile in the street for the township's recycle trucks.

With every stroke of the rake, I was cursing under my breath, because, I don't even have a tree in my yard.

During the monotony of raking my mind wandered to the loss of your dad and the similarity to the recent loss of my father-in-law Dr. Barry D. Walp. Incidentally, Barry's middle name is Donald.

I reflected on the how their life, full of accomplishment, was compressed down into the space of a newspaper obituary. Well, these days, an on-line newspaper obituary. Each could have filled a book that would have been on the best seller list.

Some similarities I noticed:

Both were Eagle Scouts,

Both graduated from a Pennsylvania College in 1951, Barry from F&M Don from Bucknell.

Both were married for over 60 years to the same person!

Both excelled marvelously at their chosen career.

Both were very involved in their church.

Both served and were members and held various offices with National and local organizations.

Both passed the same time as famous political figures of our time. Ed Kennedy and H.W. Bush. For the record, although it is a similarity, I'm convinced the events are unrelated.

As my fingers and nose became colder because of the wet leaves, and my anger toward the leafless trees down the street grew, I couldn't help but think about what great lives these two "Lancastrians" lived. The number of people's lives they affected during their life and the legacy they left behind. What a high standard they held for those of us that follow them. I couldn't help but reflect on the sacrifices they must have made in their lives to reach their goals and for service to others.

I became sad that I hadn't taken advantage of the opportunity to spend more time with each of them and learn more about the life lessons they lived. Truly a life well lived.

I know it is a real loss to both you and Coz and to your families. During this difficult time, I hope you can take comfort in the fact that both you and Coz and your respective families are in our family's thoughts and prayers.

I couldn't help but think as the sun came out and warmed my face and as the wind picked up and blew leaves off my neighbor's blasted maple tree onto my freshly raked lawn that every gust of wind was like air rushing in to fill the vacuum created by the loss of two spectacular individuals and how the world will never quite be the same.

One final thought; smile, laugh and celebrate your dad's life. The life of Donald H. Betty. You have a lot to be proud of!

Your friend,

DZ

Don Zimmerman - December 06, 2018 at 01:22 PM

CL

*You're correct, both men brought a lot to the table for their families and community. We were the lucky ones because we had them close to us and in turn benefited the most. Thanks for the thoughts!!!
PS...go buy a leaf blower*

Cliff - December 07, 2018 at 03:04 PM

CH

Wayne, Saw your father passed away. You have my condolences. It is amazing how our parents are leaving this world. My father passed 11 years ago. And it was not easy, so my prayers are with you. Chris Erb Hoover

Christine E Hoover - December 10, 2018 at 07:43 PM

DG

*Joan, Cliff, Wayne and Families,
I am saddened to hear about Don's passing. Like so many other folks, I have wonderful memories of my "Uncle Don". There were three things I looked forward to every summer as a kid: Rehobeth Beach, Eastern Shore and Don Betty's tribute to us all, the Green Family Reunion. Whether it was a ride on the Strasburg Railroad, getting to sit in the rumble seat, horseshoes, swimming or the highly competitive volley ball games that he used to orchestrate with the cousins, he approached each event with gusto, inclusiveness, and extreme good humor. My fondest memories however, are of Don's interactions with my Dad and Grandfather. There was an art to the constant good-natured ribbing and it reflected the sincere respect and love they all had for each other. Don was a role model for me and luckily... I did tell him that at the Leffel Farm about 15 years ago. It was the only time he didn't respond with a quip or a quick reply. Thoughtful and Priceless. We will continue to honor Don in our prayers and memories.
Dan Green*

daniel Matthew Green - December 27, 2018 at 05:21 PM