



Donald Rogers

June 28, 2021

Donald Dean Rogers, age 85, beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle and Friend passed peacefully from this world, June 28th, 2021, in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is preceded in death by his wife Karen and leaves behind children; Scott, Stacy and Mark and grandchildren; Emma, Jack, Kailea and Maila.

His faith in God guided his character and actions in life. Some of the traits that reflect his true character are humility, kindness, work ethic, compassion and service to others. Don was a leader for his family, community, and church, with a quiet dignity that was as inspiring as it was distinguished.

Don was born Easter Sunday, April 12th 1936 to Joseph James Rogers and Verna May (Hagermann) Rogers of Muscatine, Iowa. His sister JoAnn Rogers died at birth. Growing up in the adjacent family home behind his Grandparent's house, Don was fortunate to have a large extended family nearby who played an important role in his youth and community. He told stories of the Hawkeye Pearl Button Company, which his grandfather built from the ground up and the delicious German pies his grandmother lovingly prepared for him.

A graduate of Muscatine High School, Don loved all sports including football, basketball, and track & field. He was also active in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Don continued his academic and athletic pursuits at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He played football and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry.

Don began working for the US Forest Service and met his wife of 57 years, Karen Ann Kimball, in Denver, Colorado. His focus on timber management took him to Walden, Colorado then Del Norte, Colorado and on to the Black Hills of Custer, South Dakota. The Mountains of Colorado always called him back, so in 1979 he put in a transfer to Leadville, Colorado and eventually settled and retired in Fort Collins, Colorado.

During the Summer Don helped fight wildfires across the US as part of the US Forest Service. In addition to the role of firefighter, the last few years Don served as “Camp Boss” on several fires making sure the crews had all they needed to sustain the energy to fight the wildfires successfully. His three children grew up with a father with a passion for all things outdoors and shared his love of the land, forest, rivers and maps.

One of Don’s (greatest accomplishments) and favorite hobbies was skiing. He served on the National Ski Patrol at both Steamboat Springs Ski Area and Wolf Creek Ski Area, later volunteering as a Ski Ranger in Summit County. His love of skiing was passed on to his

children and Don attended many ski trips with the Senior Center of Fort Collins well past his retirement from the Forest Service.

Don’s grandchildren have been fortunate to have his support in attending their many activities throughout the years. He was always eager to cheer them on and share his knowledge of the outdoors with them. They loved him very much!

At request, his body has been cremated and in the months to come, there will be a gathering in Fort Collins, Colorado. Details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, and in his honor, in lieu of flowers, please be kind to one another, be good to one another, and support causes which do the same.

Comments



“ Dear Mark, Stacy and Scott,
We were not surprised to hear of your father's death so soon after that of your mother. We think he was ready to go once your mother was gone. They were quite a couple. Please let us know when you set a time for a memorial service as we would like to come. What a wonderful thing to say that to honor your dad we should be kind to one another. That is the best motto any of us could have for living.
Thinking of you,
MaryLou and Stephen Smith

MaryLou Smith - July 21 at 01:40 PM



“ When I saw this photo of Don, I must say you can never forget his smile. This is Linda (Rudd) Helmick and I first met Don on the Rio Grande National Forest. I am from the San Luis Valley (Del Norte) and I still work for the Forest Service and I am now in Leadville, Colorado and have been here since 1970. What a pleasure it was to work with Don. I always knew him when he was on the Pike & San Isabel, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. There were a great bunch of folks on the Rio Grande when I first started working there, and I will never forget them. We used to be at the old Fassett building in Monte Vista when I first started working there. It was pretty neat. Extending my sincere condolences to your entire family in your loss. Know your memories will help you get through this very hard time.



Linda Helmick - July 20 at 08:49 AM



“ Don and I grew up together on orange street Muscatine our mothers were good friends. Lots of good memories and got to know Karen when visited. Really liked her and did not know she had passed. Know you will miss your father. Dede Figg Hoopes

DedeHoopes - July 19 at 06:47 PM



“ To the Family of Don,
Don was my supervisor on the Redfeather Ranger District for a few years in the 1980's. He was kind to others and passionate about forestry and the fire service. When he and I were volunteer ski rangers together at Winter Park he was always happy, you could tell he loved the sport. Please accept my condolences.
Steve Johnson



Steve Johnson - July 18 at 05:24 PM



“ Dear Mark, Scott, and Stacy, we are very sorry for your loss. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.



Sandra Cahalan - July 17 at 11:49 AM



“ Don and I were room mates during our years in Steamboat Springs and both single during those interesting years. We remained good friends through out our lives and Karen and I will miss both of these outstanding people.

Bob and Karen Miller July 23 at 9:00 PM

Bob Miller - July 23 at 10:56 PM



“ Dear Scott, Stacy and Mark, What an outstanding summary you wrote in memory of your Dad! When I first read it I couldn't think how to respond. Apparently not having your skill I was at a loss as to how to summarize so many memories of a long and treasured friendship. I still am at a loss, but here are a few memories. Don's smile of greeting was always so warm and welcoming and he gave the best bear hugs ever. Joe and Don shared so much professionally and when the two of them got together most other topics ceased. Don's kindness and graciousness even allowed him to be friendly when OSU beat ISU in football. Both Don and Karen are so missed. With love to each of you, Lindy and Joe

Joe/Lindy Hartman - August 09 at 01:30 PM