



Donald "Don" Eugene Wankel

July 11, 1927 - April 13, 2014

Donald Eugene Wankel, 86, peacefully passed away on Sunday, April 13th, 2014 in Fort Collins, Colorado, after a short illness. He was born July 11th, 1927 in Virginia, Illinois to Edgar Wankel and Ethel Mathews. Don grew up and attended school in Beardstown, Illinois. Don married Ruth Vette in Beardstown, Illinois in 1951. He left shortly thereafter to serve in the Korean Conflict. After returning from Korea, Don and Ruth farmed near Beardstown. The Wankels moved to Fort Collins in 1963.

Don was a modest, dedicated family man, making sure the family home was up-to-date and well-repaired. Don and Ruth raised their children in the Green Street house where they lived for fifty years.

Don was the consummate gardener, raising an annual garden of succulent vegetables and beautiful flowers. Don was annually in competition with the next door neighbor to have the first green grass on Green Street. Between finishing the basement and tending the garden, Don loved the Colorado outdoors. Fishing and backpacking brought great joy to Don. He enjoyed sharing this love with his Illinois relatives and immediate family members. He was a Letter Carrier with the US Postal Service from 1964 to 1990. Don was also a 50+ year member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Survivors include son, Douglas Jay (Sylvia) Wankel, and grandchildren, Keith Wankel of Aurora, Colorado; Nikki (Mike) Martin of Thornton, Colorado, and

Erin Frey (Kader) Barry of Hayward, California and great-granddaughter, Lydia Jane Martin. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Ruth; daughter, Janet Sue (Wendell) Frey and brothers Glenn, Elmer, and Leo Wankel.

Funeral services will be 10:00 AM on Wednesday, April 16th at St. John's Lutheran Church, 305 E. Elizabeth in Fort Collins. Interment will be at Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. John's Lutheran Church (305 E. Elizabeth St in Fort Collins) or the Colorado Wildlife Federation (ColoradoWildlife.org).

Cemetery Details

Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery

8426 S College Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80525
info@resthavencolorado.com
<http://www.resthavencolorado.com/>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Saint John's Lutheran Church
305 East Elizabeth Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
<http://www.stjohnsfc.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Missing you Don, Ruth, and Janet. Remembering backpacking, Rabbit Ears Pass, Rainbow Lakes, the green Bronco. Many thanks to all the Wankle family for accepting me as part of your lives. Take good care, Melanye Johnson Parcels 8-23-23

Melanye Johnson Parcels - August 23, 2023 at 05:04 PM



“ Donald "Don" Eugene Wankel

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ We wish to say Thank You to your loved one for his service to our great country. Our sympathies are with your family.

Marine Corps League Auxiliary #785
Fort Follins, CO

Marine Corps League Auxiliary - April 16, 2014 at 11:23 AM



“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Eugene Wankel



Chrissy - April 14, 2014 at 01:57 PM