

Donald Russell Heller

November 5, 1937 - November 2, 2023

Donald Russell Heller, 85, passed on November 2, 2023. He was born November 5, 1937, in Akron, Ohio, to Russell Wayne and MaeJean Brandon Heller. He was their first child with his identical twin brother, Ronald Wayne, born 20 minutes later. He graduated in May of 1955 from Norton High School. On January 21, 1955, he married Helen Delores Whipkey. She preceded him in death on December 9, 2020.

Don was a 1959 graduate of Cincinnati Bible Seminary, ranking 5th in his class. He began his ministry at the Rushville Church of Christ in 1959 and was their first minister and last remaining charter member of the church. Don began his next ministry at Homer Christian Church in 1964, serving until 1972. Glenwood Church of Christ was his next ministry, serving from 1972 until 2000. He also served as camp advisor of Mahoning Valley Christian Service Camp from 1959 and camp board until 1990.

Don considered ministry his primary job, but with seven children, he also was employed as a manufacturing engineer at Schnadig Furniture from 1964 until his retirement in 1991. Next, he worked in receiving at Fujitsu 10 for nine years.

Don was very involved in starting the Rush County Community Assistance Food Pantry and still volunteered there until June 2023 when health issues forced him to retire.

Don returned as a member to the Rushville Church of Christ and served as elder, treasurer, and teacher. The only times he missed church during his

entire life was when he was in the hospital.

Survivors include his children; Cheryl (William) Oakes of Glenwood, Donald (Wilma) Heller Jr., of Speedway, Eileen Pennington of Rushville, Timothy (Bess) Heller of Rushville, Michael (Trudy) Heller of Carthage and Beverly (Jerry) Yager of Clarksburg, 16 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren, 6 step-great grandchildren, and 3 step-great, great grandchildren. His twin brother, Ronald (Jeannetta) Heller of White Mills, Kentucky, also survives as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, son, Kenneth Heller, parents, brother, Bruce Heller, sister, Marlene Baughman and and step-granddaughter, Beverly Oakes Mays.

Services will be held at 11 AM Tuesday, November 7, 2023 in the Rushville Church of Christ. Rev. Jim Coyle will preside. Friends are welcome to visit the family from 4-8 PM Monday evening at the church.

Burial will be in the Rushville East Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rushville Church of Christ or to Rush County Community Assistance Food Pantry.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rushville Church of Christ
627 W 11th St
Rushville, IN 46173-1099
(765) 932-2489

Service

NOV 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Rushville Church of Christ
627 W 11th St
Rushville, IN 46173-1099
(765) 932-2489

Tribute Wall



“ *Three Cross Throw was purchased for the family of Donald Russell Heller.*



November 07, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald Russell Heller.*

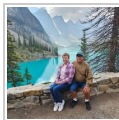


November 06, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ *Donny, Ronny and I grew up together, cousins, being only 4 months apart in age. We spent lots of time together at Grandma & Granpa Brandon's house and later at Aunt Mickey's. Over the years we sadly drifted apart going our separate ways and living some distance apart. Don was a great companion growing up, he will be missed. Gene Wise*

Gene Wise - November 06, 2023 at 12:33 PM



Thanks Gene. We will miss him.

Beverly Yager - November 10, 2023 at 05:11 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Russell Heller.*



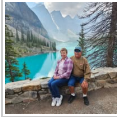
November 05, 2023 at 03:39 PM



“ *Darilyn Bedel lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller*



Darilyn Bedel - November 05, 2023 at 10:30 AM



Thanks Darilyn.

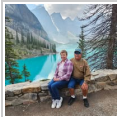
Beverly Yager - November 10, 2023 at 05:12 PM



“ *Theresia Glover lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller*

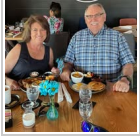


Theresia Glover - November 04, 2023 at 12:29 PM



Thanks Theresa.

Beverly Yager - November 10, 2023 at 05:12 PM



“ *Ken Redden lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller*



Ken Redden - November 04, 2023 at 10:35 AM

CS

“ *Cindy Vandeventer Sever lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller*



Cindy Vandeventer Sever - November 04, 2023 at 10:26 AM

CA

“ *Prayers go out to all the family* 🙏



Caroline Allison - November 04, 2023 at 10:26 AM

DR

“ *Don.Marcia Rolfe lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller*



Don.Marcia Rolfe - November 04, 2023 at 09:51 AM

MH

“ I remember my first fishing pole Dad ever bought me, Zebco 202 with a solid black rod when I was 11, if I remember correctly. I still have that old pole, reel was changed to Zebco 33, I liked that number better, he wasn't much for fishing due to razing 7 crazy kids! I always had issues during the week and every Sunday morning I would get my answers in his sermon, Like you know he is preaching to me, preacher stuff!! Thank pop's MISS YOU!

Michael W Heller - November 04, 2023 at 09:01 AM

DA

“ Daisy & Lawrence Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller



Daisy & Lawrence Armstrong - November 04, 2023 at 08:21 AM

JW

“ Jim Walker lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller



Jim Walker - November 03, 2023 at 10:08 PM

TR

“ My heart aches for each family member. I lift you in prayer, asking for His mercy, peace and comfort as you face this loss. Don has been a blessing to our family for many years- a minister, a friend, a teacher, sharing godly guidance, encouragement. Such a true Christian man. Thank you Don for all you have given. A special thank you to the family for sharing your father with all of us. Prayers lifted, all our love sent 🙏😭💕🕊️

Tom and Sandy J Bulmer Rayford - November 03, 2023 at 08:22 PM

DC

“ David And Kathy Coon lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller



David and Kathy Coon - November 03, 2023 at 06:48 PM

JD

“ Jacqueline Duke lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller



jacqueline Duke - November 03, 2023 at 06:08 PM

JB

“ Janet (Safewright) Bolan lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller



Janet (Safewright) Bolan - November 03, 2023 at 05:45 PM

LS

“ *Luther&Sydney Snedegar lit a candle in memory of Donald Russell Heller*



Luther&Sydney Snedegar - November 03, 2023 at 05:41 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss* 🙏❤️🙏



Greg Raike - November 03, 2023 at 05:14 PM

MD

“ *Sending prayers to all of the families*



Mary Dickson - November 03, 2023 at 04:55 PM