

Donald Bruce Johnston died August 2nd, 2011. He was married to Nancy Lee Hinely Johnston for 52 years. Surviving are a son Stephen Allen Johnston and wife Diane; a daughter Susan Ann Staley and husband Scott; granddaughter Melissa Marie Staley; and grandson, Ivan Alexander Johnston. He was also Granddad to Hope Genevieve and Noah Frederick Loiselle.



Don was born January 8th, 1937 in Toledo, OH to the late Hollis Lee Johnston and Molly Olivia Caffey Johnston. He grew up in Hyattsville, MD and graduated from the University of Maryland.

He was fond of his father-in-law Reppard Hinely and willing to learn from him about gardening, raising goats and steers, and putting up fencing--starting with cutting and splitting locust posts, digging post holes with a wooden post-hole digger and then nailing up and stretching fence wire. Late in Reppard Hinely's life, Don assisted with his father-in-law's care.

As a youth, Don participated in Boy Scouts of America and later served as Scout Master of Troop 460 in Mt. Airy, MD where his son Steve began his scouting career.

Always ready for lunch and dinner, Don liked sweets---cookies, cake, fudge, and Sue's lemon bars. His favorite pie was a sour cream raisin pie made from a recipe that belonged to his father's mother. He like raising rhubarb and eating rhubarb sauce. Don always savored a good meal, particularly prime rib on Tuesday nights at Shannon's Restaurant.

Don was an avid reader who was recently fond of books about Harry Truman. He also read the newspaper comics and jokes in Reader's Digest. Granddaughter Melissa shares Don's love of reading and a good joke, while grandson Ivan shares his love of reading and as a little boy, like to unsnap Granddad's blue suspenders. Don loved live blue-grass music. Two of his favorite tunes were Rebel Soldier and Long Black Veil, and the hymn "I've Got A Mansion Just Over the Hilltop".

Don liked to figure things out and tell you exactly how to do them, a trait lovingly passed on to his son Stephen and grandson Ivan. Don was always busy. He designed and built his small barn. He was an active person, cutting and splitting wood to heat his home in earlier days. The one thing he didn't like to do was paint.

Don liked daylilies from the time he was a young boy and dug up some wild Tiger Lilies and took them home to his mother. These lilies still bloom in his yard, along with a large yellow Alpha Centuri daylily.

Don truly enjoyed restoring Snidow headstones in Horseshoe Cemetery at Pembroke, VA with his wife and Bill Snidow. Don was a preservationist. He worked to put together pieces of the past - the tombstones - not only out of respect for those who had passed but to allow current and future generations of family members the opportunity to remember those who'd come before.

On Daysville Road near Libertytown, MD, he repaired and reset Staley and Van Fossen headstones in Chapel Lutheran's cemetery where he now rests.