



## Donald A. Ward

March 16, 1939 - April 15, 2019

It is with great sadness and much love that we say goodbye to our dear dad, beloved grandfather and loyal friend. Donald Arthur Ward, 80, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed in peace on April 15th, 2019, after many years of battling challenging health issues. Donald was born on March 16, 1939, in Gentry, Arkansas, to Fred Ronald Ward and Irene Sitton Ward. He was the second child of four. Donald graduated from Gentry High School in 1957. While in high school he owned a Ducati Motorcycle that fueled his love of cars and motorcycles culminating with him attending the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally late in life. He attended the University of Arkansas securing both a Bachelor's degree and a Master's Degree in Agriculture. While at the University of Arkansas he joined Farmhouse Fraternity, served as their Treasurer, and he made many lifelong friends. After completing his Master's degree, Donald served in Army active duty for six months and in the reserves for five and a half years. He married Judith Council on June 15, 1963. Upon leaving the military, Donald held progressively responsible positions with the Texas Extension Service, Borden Milk Company and Merck Pharmaceuticals. In 1973, he took a big risk and accepted an opportunity to return to his childhood home and go into business with his brother. Ward Brothers Water Systems became a successful business that served individuals, corporate clients and major municipalities across Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. They installed complete septic and pump systems, underground utilities, and drilled wells. Major clients included Tyson Foods, Cobb-Vantress, Simmons, and Georges. Inclement weather and

winter storms inevitably negatively impacted poultry farms and Ward Brothers got the call day or night to restore mission critical life-saving systems. Northwest Arkansas was a great place to raise his two daughters, Susan Ward Rauhoff, and Sara Ward Sheehan. The family were members of First United Methodist Church in Springdale, Arkansas. Donald served as class president of his Sunday school class for many years. Donald never met a stranger and he built many enduring friendships. Survivors include his daughters: Susan Ward Rauhoff, her husband Lance and their children Will and Charlie of Phoenix, Arizona, and Sara Ward Sheehan, and her husband Jeff of Dallas, Texas. He is survived by two sisters and their families, Sharon Ward Bell of Columbia, Tennessee, and Mary Ward Montemat of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Donald was preceded in death by his brother, Ronald Fred Ward, his mother, Irene Sitton Ward, his father, Fred Ronald Ward. Memorial services will be held on Friday, April 19th at 2 pm at the Wassan Funeral Home in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, followed by interment at Fairmount Cemetery, Gentry, Arkansas. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in loving memory of Donald Ward to the Farmhouse Fraternity Foundation designating the Arkansas chapter. To make a donation, visit [www.farmhouse.org/foundation](http://www.farmhouse.org/foundation) or by mail at 7306 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Suite 310, Kansas City, Missouri, 64153.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairmount Cemetery

Fairmount Cemetery  
Gentry, AR

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **19**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home  
441 U.S. 412  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761  
(479) 524-5131  
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

FA

“ From Aunt Marilyn and Husband Alvis purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Donald A. Ward.



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**From Aunt Marilyn and Husband Alvis** - April 18, 2019 at 03:04 PM

KH

“ Don was a wonderful and loyal friend to my Daddy when they were both living in the Retirement home in Springdale and when Daddy was later in The Circle of Life. He was a bright spot to Daddy and me every day in those last weeks. He blessed me with a sweet treat every day. Don will be missed by many but he is now in his place in Heaven and I can just see the welcome he received from Daddy and many others there. We that knew him were all blessed and the memories are precious.

*Kay Truitt Hoggard (Daughter of Leonard Truitt and sister of Joel Truitt)*

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**Kay Truitt Hoggard** - April 18, 2019 at 12:43 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Donald A. Ward.



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April 17, 2019 at 11:32 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Donald A. Ward.*



April 17, 2019 at 08:56 PM



“ *From Sherri Shaw Dillard purchased the Ribbon of Remembrance-Sterling Pendant & Necklace for the family of Donald A. Ward.*



**From Sherri Shaw Dillard** - April 17, 2019 at 07:01 PM



“ *Don had a great sense of humor and always kept me laughing as I grew up around their house! He and Judy always made me feel at home when I would visit and I have so many great memories of him. One of my favorite was when he practiced "moon walking" with Susan and I after Michael Jackson made it famous. I remember he was better than we ever were! My greatest sympathies to Don's whole family, you will be in my thoughts during this difficult time.*

**Sherri Shaw Dillard** - April 17, 2019 at 06:52 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald A. Ward.*



April 17, 2019 at 05:48 PM

KR

“ To Donnies family,,,, Lost a loyal friend, always a great attitude even in recent years with all his medical issues... He is remembered as one always concerned with others and a great fraternity brother at FarmHouse.... May God send you a special measure of his blessings at this time... Keith Rinehart

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**keith rinehart** - April 17, 2019 at 10:29 AM

RF

“ Don Ward, What a great person & friend. Will never forget having breakfast on Wednesday & holidays at Morningside. He will be missed along with his closet candy store & Don Ward knives.

Roy & Cheryl Fears

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**Roy Fears** - April 17, 2019 at 10:00 AM

RB

“ It was a great privilege to know, and work with Don, for over thirty years. He used his somewhat gruff exterior to disguise a warm heart, and exceptional sense of humor. We have many wonderful memories of Don, and send our sincere condolences to Susan and Sarah.

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**Russ & Sue Beck** - April 17, 2019 at 09:06 AM

ML

“ Remembering Don for being so kind and helpful when my Mother moved into Culpepper Place. He always had a smile and warm greeting for the residents and visitors while looking out for those who needed assistance. He kept his sense of humor to the end despite the pain. I will miss our visits and daily phone conversations as he always brightened my day!

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**Michele Love** - April 16, 2019 at 02:26 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald A. Ward.*



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April 16, 2019 at 01:42 PM



“ *James & Marilyn Sheehan purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald A. Ward.*



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**James & Marilyn Sheehan** - April 16, 2019 at 11:16 AM



“ *One of my favorite memories of Don Ward happened during brunch at the Tri-Delta house during Dad's Weekend. When it was his turn to introduce himself, he stood up, grinned from ear to ear and said, "I am Don Ward and I was told to do this!" as he threw the Delta. He was funny, kind, discerning, smart, hard-working, and the best company. He will be missed.*

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**Laura Cunningham** - April 16, 2019 at 11:15 AM



“ *Don was one of the kindest and most generous men I've ever known. He could add humor to every situation and treated everyone with respect. THE Duke family will miss him.*

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**Dana Duke** - April 15, 2019 at 09:55 PM