



Don Eli

May 24, 1927 - July 7, 2023

Donald William Eli finished his journey in life on July 7th, 2023. Don passed away at the age of 96 with his wife, Patsy, by his side. Don was born May 24th, 1927, to Bill and Sylva Eli. He is preceded in death by his brother, Robert, his father, Bill, his mother, Sylva and his daughter, Calli. As a child, Don's parents fostered a closeness through family reunions and get-togethers with many of his extended family. He attended Chelan schools and in the 5th grade, discovered his passion – baseball. Besides baseball, he also competed in football, basketball and swimming in high school. At the age of 17, he persuaded his mother to give consent to join the Navy. He was assigned to the ship The Wisconsin where his job was to copy code. His 18 months on The Wisconsin were primarily spent in the Pacific. He later received his high school diploma in 2003 because of his military service.

Upon returning from military service, he wed Phyllis Reeves, made his home in Chelan and had 4 children. He was married to Phyllis for 35 years.

Over the years, Don worked at the local lumber mill and in the field of carpentry. He opened and operated a sporting goods store for 10 years and later added a Dairy Queen ice cream shop next to the sport shop. He had a variety of jobs in the apple industry culminating in 28 years as the manager for Cascadian Fruit Shipping. Don was a drummer and played in small groups locally. He was a member of the Chelan Gun Club and the Eagles

organization. He loved to play the card game Panguingue and would play cards in both Chelan and Wenatchee.

Throughout his life, Don never abandoned his love for baseball. He coached Little League, Babe Ruth and Adult Softball while playing in as many games as possible. He shared his knowledge of baseball with many young men in the community and very much enjoyed the experience. Don was one of the 15 original inductees in the Wenatchee Senior Softball Hall of Fame. Never one to miss a baseball game, he played until the age of 80.

In 1999, Don married Patsy Wilson. They were active in programs at the Senior Center and had many family get-togethers. Playing chair volleyball at the Senior Center became another form of competition that Don loved. He and Patsy were married for 24 years.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Patsy, 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Daughter- Terri Gowan (Dennis) grandchildren- Kelsey, Kris great-grandchildren – Sloane, Nolan, Delaney, Addison

Son-Mitchell Eli grandchildren – Corrie, Cassie, Megan, Cody great-grandchildren –Riley, McKenzie Andrew, Josh

Daughter-Mitzi Baker (Randy) grandchildren- Kyli, Kami, Kris great-grandchildren- Hannah, Taden, Tabor, Tyanna, Alice Jean, Aubrey

Step-daughter – Darla Angel grandson- Tanner Angel

Don will be put to rest at 11:00 am July 21st at Fraternal Cemetery in Chelan, WA with a reception following at the Baker residence at 331 E. Nixon, Chelan, WA.

The family would like to thank the Prestige Colonial Vista Assisted Living and Confluence Health Hospital for the excellent care they took with our loved

one.

In lieu of flowers, please consider sending donations to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 21. 11:00 AM (PT)

Chelan Fraternal Cemetery
55 Union Valley Road
Chelan, WA 98816

Reception

JUL 21. 12:00 PM (PT)

Baker Residence
331 E. Nixon
Chelan, WA 98816

Tribute Wall



“ I was so sad to hear about Dons passing. it was a privilege to take care of him at colonial vista. when he first moved in he was so discouraged, it was amazing to watch him gain his confidence back and start walking independently. i'll never forget his kind heart and how appreciative he always was. I'll always remember him saying “hey kid how are you doing today” He will be missed.

Libby Rinke - July 15, 2023 at 02:09 PM

BB

Mitzi so sorry to hear of your dad's passing just know he is in a better place hang on to all your memories And prayers to your family Larry and Barbara Brady

Barbara Brady - July 20, 2023 at 11:42 PM

GA

Wenatchee Senior Softball sends a farewell to Don who was a founding member of the Valley's senior softball league and a first round member of our Hall of Fame. Many of our players remember Don as always on hand to do anything that needed doing and as a good player who played the last several years with PJs up until he was 80. Don, rest in peace and suit up with the angels.
Greg Alderson, WSS Board Member.

GREG ALDERSON - July 21, 2023 at 12:58 PM