



Donald E. Shorts

January 27, 1924 - April 20, 2023

Donald E. Shorts, 99, passed away after a brief illness at his home in Crete, Illinois on April 20, 2023.

Don was born January 27, 1924, at his grandparents' home in Ludington, Michigan, to Harold E. Shorts and Grace G. Browne. In October 1942, he signed up for a "brief" tour of duty in the US Navy. Pearl Harbor was attacked and, as he put it, "All bets were off." He ended up making a career of the Navy, graduating from Northwestern University, flying hot air balloons, blimps, and eventually taking off and landing airplanes on carriers. He served actively for 17 years and another 9 years in the reserves, retiring as a Lt. Commander. He, with his wife, Marion L. Shorts, did all of this while raising three children: Susan (Gary) VanLaningham, Kurt Shorts (deceased) and William (Ann) Shorts.

Don and his family moved to the Chicago area where he worked as a Building Stone Broker. He was instrumental in creating many beautiful stone facade buildings in the city, including the recladding of the Amoco building. He enjoyed dog training, sports car racing, and sailboat racing (including the Mackinac Race).

A large part of his life was spent having adventures with his late wife, Irene Ganas. They traveled, raced boats, did archaeological digs, and vacationed in

Florida. It was there, in Florida, on January 5, 2023, Irene passed away suddenly.

He leaves behind an extensive family: Marion Laing Shorts, his children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Don was a true Renaissance man. He will be missed.

Burial will be at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery with his wife, his father & stepmother, his son and his grandson.

Date determined.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

IM

“OMG... no wonder I hadn't heard from Irene and/or Don!

My name is Ida McCarty; Irene and I worked together for many years at Thermark, a division of Avery International, in Scherrville, IN.



Irene, Don, my late husband Dennis McCarty, and I enjoyed wonderful and fun travels together and maintained a great relationship. Dennis and I moved to Arizona in 1994 and continued our fun relationship with Don and Irene.

Today's search was brought on as I came across photo cds Irene produced of various road trips we all shared. My last visit with them was breakfast during a trip I made to Indiana about 6 years ago.

I tried calling Irene on several occasions but no answer made me think they were in Florida.

Anyone who shared time with these two individuals recognized how special they were individually and as partners. I am so sad to learn of their demise but so thankful for having shared a beautiful friendship with these very special individuals. Rest in peace, dear friends. Hugs from Ida McCarty

Ida McCarty - March 21, 2024 at 05:22 PM

IM

If anybody has obit information re: Irene, please share with me at 520-403-3204 or mccartyaz@gmail.com

Ida McCarty - March 21, 2024 at 06:39 PM