



Donald Emil Kocina

October 8, 1928 - February 12, 2014

Don was born in Verdigre, Nebraska, on October 8, 1928, the eldest of three children to Emil & Lillian Kocina. He has a sister Rita (Hildreth) of Medford and brother, Jerome of Vancouver, Wa. Don attended school in Verdigre, Nebraska and graduated from Fort Collins, CO in 1945. After graduation, he returned to Verdigre, Neb. and held several jobs, truck driver, heavy equipment operator and farmer. He married Lois E. Belka in Verdigre, Neb. on October 25, 1949. To this union, four sons were born; Douglas, Brian, Ross, and Neil. Don moved his family to the west coast where he had an airline career. He managed stations in Omak, Wa., Medford, Ore., and Redmond, Ore. for West Coast Airlines which later became Air West then Hughes Airwest then Republic Airlines and final Northwest Airlines. He retired from Northwest Airlines after 35 years of service. He loved his career and enjoyed taking Lois on many trips, like Hawaii, New Zealand, Fiji, Japan, China, as well as several surprise vacations. After he retired from the airline, he owned and operated a cleaning service called The Scrub Gals in Redmond, Ore. He and Lois loved to travel, so he purchased a motor home and they traveled in all 49 states and 9 provinces with only one fender bender which was not his fault. He was an active member of the St. Thomas Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and he had belonged to the Kiwanis Club and also the Rotary Clubs in Medford and Redmond. He was also the proud owner of a 1957 BMW Isetta, which he entered in parades and shared special times and rides with his grandchildren. His grandchildren will be honorary pallbearers. They

are Heather Puksta, Heath Kocina, Jessica Darbonne, Ashtyn Kocina, Alex Kocina, and Kyle Kocina. He has 4 great-grandchildren, Hannah and Madison Kocina, Kierra Puksta, Dillon Roark, and a great granddaughter, Ida who is to arrive in June. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lois, Bette, wife of Douglas (deceased in 1988) and their children, Heather and Heath, Brian and his son Kyle, Ross and his wife, Susan, daughter Jessica and step daughter, Jenna, and Neil and his wife, Pam and their children, Ashtyn and Alex. Don is preceded in death by his oldest son Douglas and his parents, Emil and Lillian. Rosary will be held Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 6pm at St. Thomas Catholic Church and a Memorial Mass will be held Monday, February 17, 2014 at 11am at St. Thomas Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers donations in Dons name can be made to St. Thomas Catholic Church Building Fund of Redmond or Partners in Care of Bend or The American Cancer Society.

Funeral Home:

Redmond Memorial Chapel

717 SW 6th Street

Redmond, OR

US 97756

Tribute Wall

LK

“ Glenda, Don & I talked of you so often wondering where you & your family were at.. Those were good years on Jackpine our old place has sure changed should have not gone out to see it No beautiful lawn and many things changed. Course things have changed at this house too. I miss Don so much but you know, you went thru the death of Gail too. I would love to meet you for lunch sometime to renew old memories or a phone call. would be nice.. Thanks again for your message. Lois Kocina

Lois Kocina - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ We just heard about Dons final trip today. The joy of our memories of Don will always be with us. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family. We will enter Don again along with your family in our Holy Family Catholic Community Prayer Book, which is included in the Mass prayers during all Holy Family masses this year Our love to all, Dean and Joan

Dean and Joan Kocina - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ Dad you were a great role model for me with your love for family, your love for mom, and your love for us. We will miss you greatly and our hearts are heavy with you having to leave. We do understand that it was your time. We take comfort knowing you will no longer have to suffer and that you are in heaven with Doug. Thank you and we love you!

Neil Kocina - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ Dear Lois and family On behalf of the entire membership of HAWRARE, please accept our sincere condolences. Don was a great friend and an outstanding station manager.

Gene Kranc-Retired Airline Employees - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Dear Lois, My how time flies by! Ive been retired 16 years now, but still have fond memories of having a summer potluck in your back yard, in fact maybe more, for the Insurance Women of Central Oregon. You and Don were gracious hosts. May your happy memories bring comfort, too, throughout this time of sorrow. Fondly, Niki and Larry Alderman

Niki Alderman - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ To Lois and family, Ted and I want to express our sincere sympathy to you and your family. Don was a good friend and we will miss him very much. Love, Ted and Donna

Ted and Donna Moan - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ Brian, Kathie and I read of your fathers passing in todays Sunday Bend Bulletin. We cannot tell you how very sorry we are and will keep you and Kyle in our prayers. Although we never met your father we have lost all of our parents and can empathize with how you are feeling right now. Sincerely, Greg and Kathie Pluchos

Greg and Kathie Pluchos - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KM

“Lois and family, It was so sad to read of Dons passing. He was such a wonderful man with a great sense of humor. I know he will be missed by a lot of people. Love and Aloha, Ken and Nancy McGilvray

Ken and Nancy McGilvray - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SB

“Don was the kindest, helpful and most understanding man that I have know. He was always someone I could talk when we were at the pool together or out in public. Lois, Im so sorry for your lose of your best friend and husband. Remember all the fun things you did together and the friends you made camping and traveling. Love you, Sandy Booth

Sandy and Jim Booth - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GG

“I met Don & Lois in 1979 when they moved in across the street from us. For about 25 years they were the best neighbors anyone could have. My family wishes to express our sympathy to Lois and family. Glenda, Rhonda & Loren Gassner Glenda, Don & I talked of you so often wondering where you & your family were at.. Those were good years on Jackpine our old place has sure changed should have not gone out to see it No beautiful lawn and many things changed. Course things have changed at this house too. I miss Don so much but you know, you went thru the death of Gail too. I would love to meet you for lunch sometime to renew old memories or a phone call. would be nice.. Thanks again for your message. Lois Kocina

Glenda Gassner - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Don was always one I could ask a question of and get a civil answer regarding Camping club affairs. He was always respectful of others and I believe lived by the Golden Rule. The Rim Rock Roamers will not be the same without Don and Lois in full participation. We will miss you Don. Diana and Al Lovgren

Diana Raske Lovgren - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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Diana Raske Lovgren - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ He was an amazing man. He was a great husband and father and will be sadly missed. Dad, I love you so very much.

brian kocina - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM