



## Donald Glenn Messinger

July 10, 1945 - April 10, 2021

Donald Glenn Messinger, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away due to complications from COVID-19 on April 10, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon. He was born July 10, 1945, in Allegan, Michigan.

Don grew up in Gobles, Michigan. He graduated from Gobles High School in 1963, got his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, and earned his law degree at De Paul University in Chicago. He married Bonnie Mravic on February 22, 1969, and went on to have four children. Don started his own law practice in Hinsdale, Illinois, and continued his practice in Westmont, Illinois, Grand Haven, Michigan, and Spring Lake, Michigan.

Don was a man of great faith who believed God is always in control. He was caring, generous, an eternal optimist, and an inspiration and mentor to many. He valued hard work and honesty, and believed nothing was more important than family. Don instilled in his family a love of camping and the outdoors. He especially loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Much of Don's freetime was spent fishing, golfing, fly-tying, making wine, and writing fiction. He also served on many boards, including M.A.D. Ministries, Camp Bluebird, Lakeshore Youth for Christ, Grand Haven Area Arts Council, South Haven Center for the Arts, and S.W.M. Trout Unlimited.

Don is survived by his wife of 52 years, Bonnie; his four children, Michael (Deanne) Messinger, Daniel Messinger, Megan (Chris) Storck, and Amanda (Charles) Robbert; his nine grandchildren, Emily, Alex, and Christian Messinger, Mageric and Hart Messinger, Layla and Delaney Storck, and Lorelei and Felix Robbert; his sister, Sally (Jerry) Mansfield; as well as many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews, and a host of long-time friends.

Don was preceded in death by his father and step-mother, Donald and Wilma "Brick" Messinger; his mother and step-father, Bonnie and Rex Allen; sister Donita Keeley and

brother-in-law Glen Keeley; nephew Bret Mansfield; and great-niece Khloe England.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, July 11, 2021 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Trillium Event Center in Spring Lake. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials honoring Donald Messinger be directed to either M.A.D. Ministries ([madministries.net](http://madministries.net)), Love In Action([loveinactiontricity.org](http://loveinactiontricity.org)), or the Salvation Army ([salvationarmy.org](http://salvationarmy.org)).

Share memories with the family at their On-line Guest Book at <http://www.sytsemafh.com>  
Arrangements by Sytsema Cremation Services, 737 E. Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442.

# Events

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**JUL** **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 04:00PM

**11**

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Trillium Banquet and Conference Center  
17246 Van Wagner Rd., Spring Lake, MI, US

# Comments

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“ We first met Don and Bonnie when we moved across the street from them 33 years ago - and felt so blessed to have such wonderful neighbors! We have fond memories of Don working in the yard or on his car yet he'd find the time to walk over to say hello and ask how we were doing. Don was easy going, had a big heart and was always willing to lend us a hand. He had a big smile and great sense of humor. We miss you dear friend.

**Mike & Deb Schubert** - June 30 at 10:01 PM

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“ Bonnie my heart aches for you. I told my son Noah Larks tonight about his passing and was in tears. Don meant so much to his dad Rico and Noah. Please let us know if we can do anything. He was such a pillar in so many lives.

**Carrie Pierce** - May 14 at 10:37 PM

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“ I'm so saddened to hear of Don's passing! He was a true Prince of a man. I was in various leads groups with him over the years and he was someone who's lead was a good one to follow. Funny, good heart, honest-

Bonnie- you and your family are all in my prayers. I know he loved you so much.

Lisa Vander Meulen

**Lisa Vander Meulen** - May 10 at 08:31 PM

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“ A TRUE FRIEND!!! JOHN CARR

**JOHN CARR** - May 06 at 08:44 AM

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“ Don was a warm and beautiful light for God. His sweet spirit and love of plants endured him in my heart forever. I am sending prayers of comfort and peace to his family and look forward to seeing him again in heaven.

Allison Lucas - May 02 at 07:51 AM

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“ Don was an always friendly regular at the restaurant where my mom worked when I was a kid. He would eventually become one of my first bosses when I was Mate aboard the Harbor Steamer. He was also the first lawyer I remember meeting and made me consider going to law school, which I ultimately did. I'll remember him fondly as an important part of my youth and overall lovely guy.



Mike Van Hall - April 26 at 03:10 PM

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“ If my memory serves me right I believe I met Don through a mutual friend in the late 80s or early 90s. I will always remember our South Carolina golf trips, we had such a wonderful time. Made that trip many times in the fall, I also remember one end of the party on the Harbor Steamer we ended up at Don's house had a nice bonfire told a bunch of lies, had too much to drink & Bonnie made me a bed so I spent the night. I thank Bonnie for that! I will never forget my friend! My heart goes out to the family Jerry W.

Gerald Warner - April 20 at 10:29 AM

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“ He was such a wonderful man, caring and giving. He helped my husband and I when we needed it most, without charging us a cent. He will be missed. You and your family are in our prayers Bonnie. Love and peace, Ruthanne Dashner Ray

Ruthanne Dashner Ray - April 19 at 06:15 PM

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“ I have many fond golf memories (at the annual Boo boo outing) with Don. He was not only a friend but a coach to my golf adventures. Don guided me through several difficult times with honesty and integrity. He was a trusted friend. A man of faith and warmth. My prayers to Bonnie and family.  
George Tilton

George Tilton - April 19 at 05:38 PM

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“ Oh! Don can you remember when you talk me into fly fishing. You made it sound so easy. Then came my first lesson. You spent most of the time unsnagging my line out of the trees. I was near giving up, but you would not let me. So after our second outing I sorted got the idea and finally caught a fish!. I will always hold dear to my heart our poking fun at each other on the golf course and arguments while trying to eat lunch. You will be missed and i will miss you greatly. Until we see each other again. God bless.

Roger Gravengood - April 19 at 02:42 PM

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“ Don was always smiling and always willing to help. We are forever grateful for his legal work for the ministry (Make A Difference). He will be missed greatly. Especially at our yearly golf tournament. We always looked forward to seeing his smiling face and watch him have so much fun with the guys. Don was a true man of God. Bonnie, prayers for you and the family...for peace and guidance.

Carole Nordstrom - April 19 at 11:45 AM

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“ I met Don many years ago and then bumped into him and Bonnie at Harvest a year ago. He was a humble man of God. Two words always come to mind when I think of him “Integrity and honest”. Well done faithful servant you will be missed. Our prayers go forward to you Bonnie and your family.

Peggy Ann - April 18 at 09:23 PM

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“ Don was a prince of a man. I shared an office with him and Don always had time to discuss any issue I was facing. I will truly miss him. My prayers go out to his family.

**Mike DeYoung** - April 17 at 06:51 PM

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“ Don was my dearest friend, my colleague, my co-adventurer. He was a Renaissance man, thoughtful, challenging, inspiring and my go-to person to share thoughts and opinions. We shared our faith in God, in Jesus our Savior, in trying to see the “right” in every situation. His love and dedication to his wonderful wife and family are the best markers of who he was. So the stupefying void in my head and heart will take extraordinary intervention by the Holy Spirit to overcome. I loved this man.

**Richard Leist** - April 17 at 01:48 PM

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“ I only dealt with Don over the years when he and I had clients who had issues with each other. Don was always a joy to work with, a fair and friendly person. I always had the feeling I would enjoy spending more time with him when we weren't practicing law but just being friends. I'm sorry for the family's loss, and I wish Don's loved ones God's peace and comfort.

**Ron Bultje** - April 17 at 01:25 PM

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“ Don's birthday was the day before mine and he was a year younger. I usually called to say Happy Birthday and he would remind me I was always older! Oh how I will miss that.

**Joyce Bowling** - April 17 at 10:11 AM

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“ Our prayers and love go out to the family. Amanda we love you and miss you. Jacob and Freda Brodbeck

**freda brodbeck** - April 16 at 06:20 PM



“ Whenever I got a chance to see Don I always enjoyed a glass of wine and good laughs. He was a real gentleman and a true sportsman. Bonnie and family we will all miss him.

**Bonnie Twiddy** - April 17 at 10:23 AM



“ Don was a friend and writing buddy; my heart is broken. He was a talented author and I coveted his input and guidance during our writers' group. I will miss that. It was truly my privilege to call him my friend. Bonnie, you and your family will be on my heart and in my prayers.

**Patrice Frantz** - April 19 at 08:56 PM



“ Bonnie and families. We are so sorry to hear of Don's passing. We have many good memories of you both from our first meeting and time spent with mutual friends. We remember Don as loving, caring family man and a guiding professional attorney. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Linda & George Miller

**George F. Miller** - April 29 at 01:53 PM