



## James "Don" D. Stevenson

May 17, 1920 - March 28, 2016

James "Don" D. Stevenson, beloved of family and friends, was born to James Ross Stevenson and Violet Madora Zimmerman in Fairmont Township in Pike County, Ill., May 17, 1920 and died on March 28, 2016, in Bloomington, Ind. He passed from this life peacefully with his eldest grandchild, Andrea Stevenson Won, at his bedside after being attended by his sons, his daughter-in-law, and several of his grandchildren, and his latest great-grandchild, Rose Elizabeth Stevenson, born Nov. 27, 2015.

He married Charlotte E. Starnes Dec. 29, 1941 in Fort Wayne, Ind.

He was the first in his family to gain a college degree when he graduated from the Indiana Technical College (now the Indiana Institute of Technology) in 1945 as an electrical engineer.

Don's career started in World War at General Electric helping large scale electric generators. Later as superintendent of assembly for the Ohio GE Evansdale Jet Engine Plant he helped produce the J79 engine that powered the F-104 Starfighter jet. In 1962 Don left GE for General Foods International to move out of the country as vice president of operations for sub diaries in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the Federal District in the United States of Mexico.

Don loved to travel with his family to explore new places and things throughout North America, Europe, and Central and South America.

Don retired to settle with Charlotte in 1975 in the Village of Perry, Ill., to care for Charlotte's parents and to reconnect with friends and family in Pike County where Don's family originally settled in the earlier 1800's. In Perry Don served on the Perry School Board and as president of the local rent-subsidized housing for seniors. In 2006 Don and Charlotte moved to Bloomington, Ind., to be close to their son, Randehl, and his wife, Janis. For the next decade they celebrated many family reunions with children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and relatives. They also enjoyed making new friends and exploring all the new interesting venues in Bloomington.

Don dealt with his intense grief when Charlotte' died April 2, 2015, by remaining active and continuing to attend many Bloomington programs and events, including being a member of the Bloomington Civil War Roundtable, a fan of Cardinal Theatre productions, and visiting local sites of interest such as the TC Steele Historical Home, the restored Tivoli Theater in Spenser, and nearby Indiana State Parks. Don especially enjoyed "cruising" in the "original condition" 1947 Special Deluxe Plymouth that his mother purchased new and which he entered in Monroe County (Ind.) Historical Society's 2015 Classic Car Rally.

Don lived a very rich and full life. He was much loved and much respected. He will be much missed by his friends and family who were fortunate to have known him and who now mourn his passing.

Don is survived by his sons and their wives, James D. Stevenson and Christine of Benicia, Calif., and Randehl K. Stevenson and Janis of Bloomington, Ind.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and his brother-in-law, Donald Starnes and wife, Audrey, of Payson, Ill.

Plans for Don's memorial service have not yet been formalized. Those who wish to commemorate Don's life with a donation might consider either Indiana

University Health Hospice, 601 W. 2nd St., Bloomington, IN 47403, or a charity of their choice.

# Tribute Wall

ME

“ I visited Don every two weeks in the last year of his life. Over that year, I got to know him fairly well and enjoyed his life stories. He was a gentle man who loved his family. We always had a good time visiting and we shared many common interests, such as travel and technology. Don had a great life, good health, a wonderful wife, and a dearly loved family, to whom I express my heartfelt condolences.

*Happy trails, Don. Thanks for hanging out with me and being my friend.*

*Mike Enyeart  
Bloomington, Indiana*

*PS: We also enjoyed each other's humor. Don's retirement home served free buffet lunch each month, and I would often be his guest. One Sunday morning their social worker inquired about who I was. I told her that I was homeless, and Don had taken me in. Without missing a beat, Don added that he hoped I didn't eat too much!*

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**Mike Enyeart** - April 27, 2016 at 03:48 PM

ME

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**Mke Enyeart** - April 29, 2016 at 01:04 PM