



Donald LeRoy Thompson, 82 of Blaine passed away October 17, 2017 in the arms of his wife, Shirley, and surrounded by his loving family. Don was born on August 17, 1935 to Mabel (Roberts) and Jefferson Thompson in Perham, Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his parents, infant daughter Audrey, sisters Lois, Mavis, Judy and MaryAnn, brothers Dale, Eddie and Lyle, brothers-in-law Dennis Karjala, Kenneth Huwe, Leonard Saewert, Gene Harstad, sister-in-law Jan Thompson.

Don is survived by his wife Shirley of almost 62 years, son Mike (Donna) Thompson, daughter Shari (Dave) Gillund, Sister Shirley and (Lester) Ziegler, brother-in-laws Dale Schmidt, Rodney (Kathryn), Dale (Kim), Butch (Linda) and Chuck (Holly) Karjala, sister-in-law Laverna Thompson, grandchildren, Heather (Drew) Bredeson, Tracie and Kurt Gillund and Gabriel Hamilton, 4 great grandchildren Caitlyn, Gabriel, Madeline and Hannah Hamilton. Many great nieces and nephews, friends and all the great neighbors.

Don retired from Edgcomb metals and traveled the world leaving a jack knife at almost every airport. He loved to hunt and fish and tell jokes. He especially enjoyed watching his grandchildren play any kind of sport. He was their pitcher for softball and baseball when they started playing until they could pitch themselves.

Don enjoyed camping and with Shirley, saw lots of the US in a tent trailer, and gathered many fond memories. Wiffle ball was a favorite pastime in their backyard. He played it with his younger brothers-in-law, his children, grandchildren and the neighbor children. Don and Shirley spent their winters in south Texas at Fun N Sun Resort. They had many friends there and enjoyed getting away from the cold weather of Minnesota. They had a wonderful life.

Don attended School District 165 in Ottertail County from 1941-50. He always joked he was the smartest in his class (he was the only one in his class for all 8 grades). He later moved to Minneapolis.

Don was a farmer with his family before he married Shirley Karjala on November 26, 1955. He worked for Barry Blowers in Northeast Minneapolis for six weeks in 1955. He then changed jobs to begin at Steel Sales which later became Edgcomb Metals. He stayed with Edgcomb Metals until he retired on March 31, 1993. He started there as a "helper," then was promoted to order-filler and then to machinist. Donnie was finally promoted to Manager of Plant Operations in June of 1979. He remained plant manager until his retirement.

As a kid, whenever "Mom and Dad" went into town, Donnie always liked to make something good to eat. He could make really good butterscotch pudding. One time he was going to make a cake and he forgot to put in any leavening agent. The whole cake wasn't more than 1/2 inch high! He did like to cook--but that was after his older sisters had left home.

Don always hunted and once shot a Canadian Lynx. One time, after hunting, he was coming into the house. He was always told to unload the gun outside, but this time he was so cold that he stood in the doorway to unload the gun. One shell jammed, or something, and the gun went off. Across the room was a calendar with a picture of a big deer on it. He got the deer!

A story he remembers about growing up is one his brothers and sisters would tell him as he was too little to remember it himself. They had gone with their mother and father (Jeff and Mable) to look at a different place to live. It was a farm west of Perham, Minnesota, and was called the "Daly Place." There were a lot of tall, tall weeds there, much higher than a child's head. The kids were playing and Donnie got lost in the stink weeds. It caused quite a stir among the older kids as they weren't sure how they would ever find him!