

Obituary

Donald Lee Baxter, son of Johnnie Levi and Dana Grace Amos Baxter, was born on July 27, 1927, in Shenandoah, Iowa, and passed away on May 12, 2003, at the Shenandoah Medical Center. He was 75 years of age. He attended the Shenandoah Schools graduating from Shenandoah High School in 1945. On September 13, 1948, he was united in marriage with Romona Gitchell, and to this union six children were born, Jack, Danna, John, Darla, Debra and Jay.

Don contributed 40 years of credible military service retiring from the Iowa National Guard as a Brigadier General (07). During his military career, he spent most of his time in command positions and operations. The largest organization he commanded consisted of 3,000. He also taught military tactics and served as the department head of the tactics committee of the Iowa State Military Academy. He attended Officer's Training School at Fort Benning, Georgia, as well as many other military schools including U. S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1954, Don became City Clerk for the City of Shenandoah, in charge of the political and financial records of the city. In 1960, he was appointed City Manager with management and budget control of all departments of city government. Many improvements were made to the city during his time as City Manager. He played an important role in bringing Eaton Corp. to Shenandoah. After leaving this position in 1972, he held positions as Chief of Police for Shenandoah, State Auditor for the State of Iowa (auditing city and school district records). He was also a sales manager for an insurance company and a recruiter for the Colorado National Guard. He retired from all military activity in 1987. From 1987 to 1990, Don managed the Loveland American Legion Post veterans club. He served as the Loveland American Legion Post #15 Commander for two years and was a member for over 16 years. From 1990 to 1994, he managed the Fawn Valley Inn and Dark Horse Lounge in Estes Park, Colorado. From 1994 to 2003, Don served as a security officer for APG Security Inc., Symbios Logic Site where he developed and implemented employee training programs for new employees.

Don was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his children, Jack Baxter and his wife Jacque of Shenandoah, Danna York and her husband Perry of Waverly, Nebraska, John B. Baxter and his wife Julie of Shenandoah, Darla Bowers of Red Oak, Debra Baxter of Waverly, Nebraska, Jay Baxter and his wife Tracy of Kansas City, Missouri, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.