

Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home

Donald "Don" Royer

(February 22, 1932 - April 27, 2021)

Memorials may be directed to the Essex Fire and Rescue Department in Don's name.

On February 22, 1932 in rural Essex, Iowa, a son Donald Lee was born to Robert Franklin and Alice Elaine (Solon) Royer. Don entered into eternal peace on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 in Shenandoah, Iowa.



Don's early years were spent in rural Essex. He attended Franklin Grove School through the 8th grade. He then went onto Essex High School where he graduated with the Class of 1951. On April 27, 1952 he was united in marriage to Phyllis Martin. Shortly following their marriage Don enlisted in the United States Army where he served his country with pride until his honorable discharge in 1954.

In 1954, Don and Phyllis moved to Denver, CO where he took a job at the Gates Rubber Factory. The couple then returned to Southwest Iowa in 1955 where Don started his journey into farming. The couple lived in Shenandoah and later in Essex for over 50 years. Don was a member of the Essex American Legion. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast, avid golfer and enjoyed hunting and fishing. The couple enjoyed over 30 years of wintering in Arizona. It was there that he made many lifetime golfing buddies. Don was always willing to lend a helping hand and children seemed to gravitate to Don because they enjoyed his ornery streak and his teasing. He was a true gem and will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 infant brothers, sisters Jackie Peterson and Betty Tobin, brother Bill Royer and son Jerry Royer. Those left to honor his memory include his wife of 69 years Phyllis, daughter Judy Royer McGee and husband Patrick, sisters Joyce Long and husband Jim, Beverly Currie, Geri Pinkham and husband Joe and Margaret Jo Royer, sister-in-law Cleo Royer, other relatives and dear friends.