

Obituary

Donovan Joseph Ginger, son of Ann Catherine Reavis Rhoades and George Russell Ginger, was born March 4, 1932, and passed away April 21, 2002, at the University Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, from cancer treatment complications. He was 70 years old. While Don attended the Shenandoah Community Schools, he was an outstanding athlete and was a member of the All-State Football team 1948 and 1949. He was also chosen to be part of the National High School All-Star game in Memphis, Tennessee. On August 4, 1949, Don married Patsy Ann Mondt and they became the parents of three children: Rita Ann, Donna Lea and D. Teb. Between the years of 1954 and 1995, Don worked for MidAmerican Energy (Iowa Power and Light Company) as a lineman/storeroom clerk. During this time, he was given the President's Award for Iowa Power and Light Employee of the Year. Don was also committed to the Iowa National Guard, 168th Infantry, Company C. For 33 years he served in the Guard with many of those years as the Mess Sergeant, retiring as a Sgt. 1st Class. Not only did Don enjoy many years with these two organizations, but he also served as a high school and American College football official for 41 years, softball and baseball umpire for 40 years, and a boys/girls basketball referee for 39 years. Because of these affiliations and his high school performances, Don was inducted into the Iowa High School Football Hall of Fame in 1988, and the Shenandoah Community Schools Hall of Fame in 1997. As a sports official, Don touched the lives of many kids for over 40 years. Recently he was able to reach a new generation as a Headstart bus driver for Southwest Iowa Transit, receiving the Driver of the Year Award for 2001. Don was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shenandoah. He was a loving and caring person, giving blood for many years to the Red Cross Bloodmobile and also donated his eyes to Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

He was preceded in death by parents, George Ginger and Catherine Rhoades; brother, Edward Ginger and sister, Judy Magaw. Don is survived by his wife Pat of Shenandoah; children, Rita Ginger, Lincoln, Nebraska, Donna Schaefer and her husband Verlin of Gering, Nebraska, Teb Ginger and his wife Beth of Valley, Nebraska, five grandchildren, Cory Perkins, Tyson Perkins, Erin Ginger Peters, Kirsten Ginger and Matthew Ginger; two great-grandchildren, Devon Perkins and Sienna Perkins; four stepgrandchildren, Sarah Schaefer Peterson, Courtney Fedde, Joshua Fedde, and Lucas Fedde; one stepgreat-grandchild, Paige Peterson; brother Bob Ginger and his wife Barbara of Shenandoah, sister Karen Ginger Wagner and her husband Clement of Overland Park, Kansas, other relatives and many friends.

Following the services, everyone is cordially invited back to parish hall for refreshments with the family.

Hackett-Livingston Funeral Home

712-246-2912

Shenandoah, Iowa