



Donald A. Nissen

August 29, 1936 - December 30, 2024

Donald A. Nissen, 88, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2024 in Vernon Hills, IL. He was born August 29, 1936 in Chicago, IL and has been a Libertyville, IL resident since 1974. He was a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and worked as an engineer for Underwriters Laboratories for 43 years. Don enjoyed being a Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears fan and played softball in Chicago in years past. He also liked fishing and often went on vacations to fish and was a member of The Gathering Place in Libertyville. Surviving is his wife of 63 years, Virginia “Ginny” Nissen; 2 sons, Michael (Carol) Nissen and Scott (Leslee) Nissen; 3 grandchildren, Megan, Chandler & Cameron and by a sister, Frances Brandholt.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Ann Catanzaro.

A visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by a service at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) in Libertyville. Interment will follow at Lakeside Cemetery. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to The Gathering Place, 1400 N. Butterfield Rd. Libertyville, IL 60048. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Funeral Service

JAN 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall

DN

“ We lost a wonderful neighbor. Don you will be missed on all the committees we both served on. God Bless you and your family! Lar and Janis

Don's across the street neighbor - January 08, 2025 at 06:55 PM

VC

“ 3 files added to the album Don



Victoria Coleman - January 08, 2025 at 01:03 PM

VC

*This photo of Don and his wife Ginny was taken at a family reunion he organized in 2005 for the Horvath (Ginny's) family. It was a very special time for all of us thanks to Uncle Don, particularly for the elder generation, all of whom are only with us in spirit now. It was a very special time for me as well, enjoying time with cousins, some of whom I haven't seen since.
Thank you Uncle Don!*

Victoria Coleman - January 08, 2025 at 04:38 PM

JO

“ Joyce Oswald purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Donald A. Nissen.



Joyce Oswald - January 08, 2025 at 07:05 AM

AW

“ *I'm deeply saddened to hear about Don's passing. He was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. Don always had a kind word to say to everyone when he entered the front reception lobby. After Don retired, he would come back and volunteer his time as one of the Safety Smart Ambassadors.*

Annette Wormely

Annette Wormely - January 07, 2025 at 08:19 AM

JH

“ I first met Don in 1961 when I carried the rings down the aisle to marry my sister, Ginny. Nine years later, he returned the favor by standing by my side as my confirmation sponsor.

From the moment you met Don, his sense of humor was unforgettable. He always seemed on the verge of laughter, already thinking of the joke he was about to tell. His wit was sharp, his stories were legendary, and he had a way of making everyone around him feel lighter and more at ease.

One of my favorite memories of Don is from our Fourth of July outings. Fireworks were always a highlight, and thanks to Don, we had an endless supply. He had a tradition of returning from trips with two suitcases - the second one packed with pyrotechnics!

Don loved The Chicago Cubs and loved attending games. I'm so glad he got to see them win it all in 2016. That moment meant the world to him, and by extension, to all of us who shared in his joy.

Don was also passionate about fishing. One unforgettable fishing trip stands out: an excursion that ended with my dad tipping the boat over and sending everyone into the lake!

More than his humor and hobbies, Don taught me the value of kindness and the importance of truly listening to people. He had a remarkable ability to make everyone he met feel seen and heard whether it was a neighbor or a stranger at the grocery store. We noticed that we don't have many pictures of Don and that's because he was always the man behind the camera, capturing memories for everyone else.

Don wasn't just a brother-in-law—he was a mentor, a friend, and one of my greatest inspirations. His laughter, warmth, and wisdom will stay with me forever.

- James M Hovantzi

James M Hovantzi - January 07, 2025 at 12:11 AM

VC

Beautiful sentiment Jim. We need to find all those Super-8 movies Don took!

Victoria Coleman - January 08, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald A. Nissen.*



January 06, 2025 at 08:48 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald A. Nissen.*

January 06, 2025 at 08:48 PM

BN

“ *Thoughts, prayers and hugs to the Nissen family. Don was a great friend and we enjoyed the time he spent with the Wisconsin Chapter IAEE. His smile and charisma added a lot to our meetings. When called upon he was always willing to help. He will be missed by many, many people. Bill Neitzel*

Bill Neitzel - January 06, 2025 at 03:54 PM

BF

“ Don was always such a knowledgeable and fun person to have at our Electrical Inspectors meetings here in Wisconsin!!! Besides his great humor, he always was so willing to answer questions for electrical requirements, he will be missed. Even as a guest at our meetings, Don would assist the waiters at our Banquet dinner, he was a fun person to be around. The last time I saw Don was at UL's Northbrook office, he was giving tours after his "Official" retirement, to kids and teaching them about safety. Our prayers and thoughts are with your Family in this tough time, the world lost a great guy.
Bob & Connie Fahey - Evansville WI.

Bob & Connie Fahey - January 06, 2025 at 12:25 PM

JV

“ Don was a wonderful man. He did his best all the time to support those around him. Supporting staff ideas or serving coffee at innumerable government inspector meetings. He always had a nice thing to say to those he met through the years. Jane's and my sincerest condolences to his family as he will be dearly missed.
Jim Velander

Jim Velander - January 06, 2025 at 10:32 AM

BB

“ Condolences to Ginny and the family on Don's passing. I worked closely with Don at UL for a number of years. He was a real UL ambassador, especially with the electrical inspection community.
Rest in peace, my friend.

Bob Bernd - January 04, 2025 at 07:47 PM

DZ

Thank you for your kind words.

Dorothy Zylkowski - January 04, 2025 at 08:12 PM

LN

“ *My father-in-law was truly an incredible, generous, caring and loving family man. He was a devoted father, husband, uncle, grandfather and friend. Don was always there for his family and made others feel welcome. His witty jokes and fun stories were quite entertaining! His smile was infectious! We will miss him very much but his memories will always live on in our hearts. I am so grateful to be a part of your life's journey. I miss you and love you forever dad.*

~Leslee

Leslee Nissen - January 04, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald A. Nissen.*



January 03, 2025 at 03:07 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald A. Nissen.*

January 03, 2025 at 03:07 PM

PZ

“ In addition to Scott's summary of qualities, his father had an outstanding one of loyalty. Don Nissen was exceptionally loyal...to God, his wife Ginny, their children and grand children, his brothers and sisters, and his extended family.

In the more common aspects of his life, he loved playing softball and watching his sons play baseball. Don supported the Cubs with season tickets and enjoyed watching Bears football. In a gathering of family and friends he would be the fun-loving jokester with somewhat "silly" side that was most enjoyable. His one frailty was an overwhelming love of chocolate!

There are not enough good things to say about this upstanding and virtuous man. Don lived an exemplary life that we all should strive to emulate. Any faults he may have had were minor and fleeting...his achievements were substantial as was his life. Don is missed and will be remembered by all who knew him.

His reward is life eternal with God in the perfect happiness of heaven!

Peter and Shirley Zylkowski

Pete Zylkowski - January 02, 2025 at 07:56 AM

VC

Beautiful and accurate description ❤️

Victoria Coleman - January 03, 2025 at 04:11 AM

MM

Ginny's devotion to him was exceptional also.

Margaret McCarthy - January 03, 2025 at 07:42 AM

SC

“ My dad was a great father. Loving, kind, unselfish, great integrity, humble, funny, and my role model!! I loved him very much and will miss him!!!
Scott

Scott - December 31, 2024 at 10:26 PM

DZ

“ Don was a loving, kind and compassionate man. Don and my sister Ginny were very faithful in visiting me during my rehabilitation stays. He was cheerful and supportive to me. I will miss him.

Dorothy Zylkowski - December 31, 2024 at 04:38 PM