



# Donald Walker

OCT 14, 1955 - JAN 26, 2018



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## **Donald Walker**

OCT 14, 1955 - JAN 26, 2018

**D**onald Charles Walker, 62, of Moravia and formerly of Des Moines, passed away on January 26, 2018 at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

Don was born on October 14, 1955 to Donald Ray and Charlene (Johnston) Walker in Ames, Iowa. After graduating from high school, Don worked as a union glazier, and then a head custodian at Ankeny School District before retirement. In his spare time, Don enjoyed wildlife and the outdoors.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He had a wonderful "green thumb" and loved planting flowers and growing plants. He also enjoyed listening to music from his extensive record collection and spending time with family and friends.

This past summer, Don built his dream home at Sundown Lake near Moravia, Iowa.

Don is survived by his sons: Carson and Kyle Walker; grandchildren: Madisen, Carson Jr. and Chase Walker; sister, Darci Devens; brother, David Walker and his mother, Charlene Walker.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Ray and his nephew, Adam Wagner.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Thomas Funeral Home in Centerville, Iowa.

Interment will immediately follow at Eaton Cemetery in Unionville, Iowa.

Visitation will take place from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2018 at Thomas Funeral Home in Centerville, Iowa.

Memorials may be directed to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and online condolences may be shared at [www.thomasfh.com](http://www.thomasfh.com).



## Obituary

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To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Donald Walker please visit our Sympathy Store. Cemetery Details Eaton Cemetery 450th street Unionville, IA 52594 Visitation FEB 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CST) Thomas Funeral Home - Centerville 501 North 18th StreetCenterville, IA 52544[[emailprotected](#)] Funeral Service FEB 3. 10:30 AM (CST) Thomas Funeral Home - Centerville 501 North 18th StreetCenterville, IA 52544[[emailprotected](#)]



# Tribute Wall

**Donald Walker**

OCT 14, 1955 - JAN 26, 2018



**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 11:57 AM



**Thomas Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



January 27 at 7:00 PM



**Tom Kline** posted:

A lot of people in this world just blend in. A few people God blessed with big personalities and a style of their own. Don was one those few. Even though we prayed everyday that God would give you a miraculous cure it wasn't to be. We lost a great neighbor and friend too soon. Day is done. Gone the Sun from the hills and from the lake. Rest in heavenly peace my Friend. Till we hear your hello shouts again from across the back pond in a different time. We will miss you.

February 8 at 7:00 PM



**Barbara Parrott** posted:

Barbara Parrott lit a candle in memory of Donald Walker

February 1 at 7:00 PM



**Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum** posted:

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Walker.

February 1 at 7:00 PM



**Nellie Thomas** posted:

Nellie Thomas lit a candle in memory of Donald Walker

February 1 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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BB

**Beautiful In Blue** posted:

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Walker.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

LH

**Larry Howell** posted:

So very sad, to go so young. I had the opportunity to meet Don when Mark Muir moved to Walnut grove years ago. He was excited about building his house and enjoying retirement. Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

CL

**Craig And Laura Lusthoff** posted:

Craig and Laura Lusthoff purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Donald Walker.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

PB

**Peaceful White Lilies Basket** posted:

Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Walker.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

EC

**Elite Glass And Metal Craig Lusthoff Dave Chase** posted:

Elite Glass and Metal Craig Lusthoff Dave Chase purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Walker.

January 31 at 7:00 PM

JC

**Janice Carlson** posted:

Many memories of working with Don at Southeast Elementary at Ankeny for 11years when I was light duty custodian. Worked through some good times and bad times trying to keep everything done for staff and students. I had fun making some birthday cakes for him at school. He had a fun side and a serious side but was a great help . My sympathy to all of the family and Rest In Peace Don where there is no more pain and give Lady some dog pats for me as many memories of her also. Thanks for your friendship!!

January 31 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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JK

**Jason Kok** posted:

To the entire family of Don Walker I was the guy that when Don needed to vent to someone at Sundown Lake he would call me. Even on his worst days he shared a love for the community and the outdoors. I will miss the phone calls and conversation that we had. I am sorry that life took a good man way too soon. Hugs and prayers! Jason and Gwendolyn Kok Sundown Lake

January 30 at 7:00 PM

SH

**Shirley Holker** posted:

To the family of Don Walker I am so sorry for your loss. I met Don at Sundown Lake - he was my neighbor down there. He was a great guy and always made me laugh. He was so helpful to me when my husband was killed in a car accident back in 2015. I'll never forget him! Treasure all the memories you have and may they help you find comfort during this difficult time. All my thoughts and prayers  
Shirley Holker

January 30 at 7:00 PM

BA

**Barbara** posted:

Dear Walker Family - Donald was an exceptional Father and Grandfather. Carson, Kyle and grandchildren will miss him terribly. I hope it will comfort you that he will Live On, in Them. I heard Don's Mom, Charlene, will not be able to attend services because of her health and I wanted to get a card to her in the mail. As I chose a card at Hy-Vee it dawned on me the song playing over the intercom was one of Donald's favorites for that era, Against the Wind by Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band from 1980. Against the wind We were runnin' against the wind We were young and strong, we were runnin' against the wind I thought Wow, this is a Sign from him. RIP Don. I know you are cracking jokes with your Dad and Adam and playing with Lady.

January 29 at 7:00 PM

BG

**Becky Gallez** posted:

Darci and family I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers!

January 29 at 7:00 PM

DD

**Darci Walker Devens** posted:

Darci Walker Devens lit a candle in memory of Donald Walker

January 29 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CO

**Corissa** posted:

During my time at Southeast, our friendship was just a small moment in his life. I think he liked the appearance of a rough exterior, but those who worked with him in the school setting probably caught many soft, caring moments. I would try to point out when I noticed his heart, and he would joke not to tell anyone. He had a special place in his heart for students who needed him most. He was in my room often chatting it up with students, but I would see him more on the years I had more needs in my room. He wouldn't hesitate to read to my class, and one of my favorite pictures of him is when he read to my class dressed up as Amelia Bedelia. I remember my class cheering when he and another custodian rescued baby ducklings from the storm drain, which the act could be viewed from our classroom window. He was a hero! As a staff member, I remember never wanting to miss a day in the lounge when it was Walker's turn to bring food. He will be missed by so many. Thinking of Don's family and his Southeast family during this time! Corissa

January 29 at 7:00 PM

SM

**Susan Murphy** posted:

My classroom was near the driveway where Don parked- inside was his beautiful chocolate brown dog- with windows all open and a water bowl available and attention breaks that dog knew the love Don had for him. I remember the sand table comments-Yikes!, Each project that left extra work for him we heard about, but it made my third grade class work really hard to clean up so we didn't hear from 'Mr. Walker'. I remember working late and he'd come in hollering 'Susan' -nobody calls me that- but then he'd sit down in my brown rocking chair for a little break and we'd talk about life. May God be with your family. Hoping the hunting is good where you are, Don! Sue Murphy

January 29 at 7:00 PM

KD

**Karen Dyer** posted:

Enjoyed his sister's interesting information about him! I remember the time he told us he was not coming to our Southeast Christmas party. But he did come, as Santa! blush But his Amelia Bedelia likeness was the best! He was a good sport about many things, which also entertained the kids!

January 28 at 7:00 PM

KH

**Karl Holt** posted:

Don and I lived together when he was 18. We worked together for his Dad mowing greens at sunrise. He will always be 19 to me. Oh the innocence of youth. God Bless and know you were loved by many Karl

January 28 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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JR

**Janice Ratcliff** posted:

Don was a very special man. Even though he tried to have a grumpy exterior, his heart was big and full of love for the kids at Southeast. As I passed the nurses office one day, I heard him talking to a little one about her skinned knee. He made the child's tears dry up and put a smile on their face. Don took great pride in how good the school looked. He worked so hard to make everything shine. I have a number of his special recipes with Don Walker at the top. They are such a treasure. Prayers for Don's family. May you find peace in the days ahead in your memories of Don. RIP Don.

January 28 at 7:00 PM

MH

**Marty Hunt** posted:

A good man. A great friend. So glad to have known him. So many memories. Rest In Peace buddy.

January 27 at 7:00 PM

AM

**Amie** posted:

Amie lit a candle in memory of Donald Walker

January 27 at 7:00 PM

AM

**Amie** posted:

I haven't seen Don since he moved from Mingo, but how I miss his sense of humor! He wasn't just a friend or neighbor, but more like a family member. We will be forever grateful for his friendship and everything he did for my grandparents. He has been truly missed everyday. My deepest condolences to his family.

January 27 at 7:00 PM

BW

**Brian Weber** posted:

For me, one thing says it all about what kind of a man my cousin Donald was. For as long as I can remember, every time someone in my family was in the hospital, sick or for surgery, he was the first person to show up for a visit. And he always came with a silly comment to lighten the mood. Every single time. 'I will remember all the good times, warm days filled with sunshine, and just a little bit of rain' - Sid Selvidge <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNTDSExb7Tk> Godspeed, Donald. You were sunshine when it rained. Brian Weber

January 27 at 7:00 PM



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DD

**Darci Devens** posted:

Donald is my older brother He has always been a man of principal and practicality. I was amazed how he talented Donald was not few but family knew he was a painter and started at a young age he has beautiful things that he has done on canvas. He also was a fantastic baseball pitcher. When he was 14 he was pitching to the varsity team and practically struck them all out. This was when we all lived in Pekin ILL. Donald loved living off the land and making do with what was around. I have wonderful memories of my brother we always had long talks together and usually we were on the same page. He loved his boys and definitely his grandchildren I can't believe this and I know it is Gods will but bless Donald's heart he was the best guy I knew. God bless you Donald please hug dad and Adam for us all and we will meet again. I promise love you dear brother

January 27 at 7:00 PM

DS

**Dakota Shearer** posted:

I worked with Don for two years at Southeast elementary. We quickly became friends. I loved his snarky sense of humor. He kept all of us on our toes. He always knew how to cheer up the staff and taught us to not take things to serious. He will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

January 27 at 7:00 PM

JH

**Jenni Heller** posted:

Don had a special place in many of our hearts and memories. My classes always knew he was the instigator and the stinker. They giggled at him like a spunky grandpa you can't get enough of or believe he'd even do that. Even eight years after my marriage he'd still yell my maiden name down the hall and give a wise butt chuckle. I always told him that grumpy exterior wasn't fooling anybody, he was a softy on the inside. Praying for all his friends and family.

January 27 at 7:00 PM



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JA

**Jill Arneson** posted:

Don was one of a kind! He used to holler down the hallway Arneson and I would holler back what. That's as far as it went! Everyday when I would go home for lunch he would come out the back door and say are you going home for a drink Bring me back one too! Funny guy! He def was not a fan of projects or class parties. My favorite memory was of him dressing up like Santa and coming to my house for our staff Christmas party! My own 3 girls just loved it! We already miss him at SE but he is in our hearts forever. heart Love and peace to his family. Know he talked of you all often! He was a proud dad!

January 27 at 7:00 PM

LR

**Larry & Linda Rutherford** posted:

Larry & Linda Rutherford purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Donald Walker.

January 27 at 7:00 PM

SS

**Sharla Schmeling** posted:

Don was a one of a kind man! I also enjoyed his every day presence at Southeast Elementary. He knew how terrified I was of snakes, and one day put a snake on a fishing line and ran it down the hallway. Such a fun guy! I will miss his dry humor and hilarious sarcasm, but I will carry with me so many great memories of him. Praying for comfort and peace to all of those grieving over the loss of this great man.

January 27 at 7:00 PM



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LD

**Linda Donahue** posted:

Don was such a big part of Southeast Elementary! I taught kindergarten for 13 years at that building and it was just his way to always give me a hard time about the activities I had planned for the children to do... he was not a fan of glitter in the Kindergarten classroom and he'd let me hear all about it! If he was in the room sweeping, he'd turn the vacuum off and inquire about what I was planning next and if something was 'in the works' that in his opinion was going to be too messy he'd tell me. The kids loved him and even though he tried to act like he was grumpy he never really frightened off their affection. I recall one little girl taking him off guard and giving him a big hug right around his legs...he just couldn't help but smile. It was sometimes a challenge to get him to laugh when he was busy working but I made it my mission to try to get him to smile each day. I really liked Don and what I liked most about him was you knew exactly where you stood with him from the get go. He shared a birthday in common with my husband so on October 14th I was always mindful it was Don's Birthday too. May he Rest In Peace. He was a genuinely good person. Prayers to his family. Linda Donahue, Ankeny

January 27 at 7:00 PM

MH

**Marty H.** posted:

That was Don ! Very well said Linda.Rest In Peace my friend.Marty H.

January 27 at 7:00 PM



# Media

**Donald Walker**

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Thomas Funeral Home shared 8 photos to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 11:56 AM







## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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