



## Donald Hinderholtz

February 5, 1929 - June 14, 2015

CALEDONIA - Donald Hinderholtz, was born in Racine on February 5, 1929 to the late Frank and Jule (Jardney) Hinderholtz. He passed peacefully at his home in Racine on Sunday morning June 14, 2015. Don would always say that life was not a dress rehearsal, so you better give it a good spin. He surely gave it a good spin! He was an adventurer, fun seeker and world traveler, but never without a reasonable plan.

He served in the U.S. Army from September 1946 to February 1948. He spent time in Korea during that enlistment and was later re-activated for further military service from December 1950 to November 1951.

He loved animals and was particularly fond of dogs and horses.

Don was a City of Racine Fire Fighter from 1953 until 1960 and then again from 1964 until a disability forced his retirement from the department in 1978. During his working years he also had a passion for driving trucks. He drove locally for Elsmo Trucking, Western Printing, and J.I. Case and also drove his own rig as an independent steel hauler. He was resourceful, creative and courageous in any endeavors he pursued.

Don loved his children and was particularly involved in their lives during their time in the Racine Kiltie Kadets and Kilties where he volunteered to drive bus and chaperone for large numbers of teenage children.

He and his wife, LaVerne loved to travel throughout both the U.S. and overseas. Over the years their quest for adventure took them to Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Gibraltar, Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and a boat trip on the Black Sea, Russia.

He enjoyed an annual summer camping and canoe trip to northern Wisconsin with family and friends for more than 30 years. As the group matured, they became known as the "Candy Ass Canoers".

He realized his dream of doing the Great Loop when he bought a Chinese Junk in 1988. Over the next two years he sailed from Chicago to Bimini in the Bahamas.

Don is survived by his partner in adventure and wife of nearly 64 years, LaVerne Hinderholtz (Kane) and his three children Rich Hinderholtz, his wife Jane (Bylsma), Mariann Hansen, Tom Hinderholtz, Granddaughters Ali and Emily Hinderholtz and Great Granddaughter Holly Rose Hinderholtz-Stern. He is also survived by his older brother Gerry Hinderholtz and his beloved Grand Dog "Charlie".

Funeral services will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a visitation at the funeral home on Thursday from 5 p.m. until time of service. Don will be laid to rest at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

# Events

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**JUN** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 06:30PM

**18**

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Sturino Funeral Home

3014 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI, US, 53404

**JUN** **Funeral Service** 06:30PM

**18**

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Sturino Funeral Home

3014 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI, US, 53404

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Sturino Funeral Home** - June 16, 2015 at 04:39 PM



“ Don was an amazing dad, granddad, brother, husband, everything, and he loved and lived his life. He always told me that life is NOT a dress rehearsal - you don't get a second chance - so LIVE your life. He sure did. What an amazing man and an amazing life! Ann Petersen

**Ann Petersen** - June 17, 2015 at 09:51 AM

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“ Carey lit a candle in memory of Donald Hinderholtz



**Carey** - June 19, 2015 at 03:20 PM



“ Rich I never knew your dad but will say this. To have such a great son he must have truly been a wonderful man. My condolences go out to you and your entire family. Karl Atanasoff

**karl atanasoff** - June 25, 2015 at 02:26 PM

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“ Condolences and love from Jeff, Carey, Dustin, Sara, Ray, Rianne, Zach, and Amber

**Carey** - June 19, 2015 at 03:19 PM

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“ This is just the tip of the iceberg as far as our adventures with Don are concerned. Over 30 some years ago he took our two boys [age 5 & 6] on one of most exciting trips of their young lives. He was hauling free fill dirt from a local business area and took the boys with him. The instructions were for them to hide under the dash board of his truck, and to very quiet.[as children were non allowed on this land] They got the dirt and come home just thrilled that they weren't arrested. By todays parenting standards it would be wrong on so many levels. Our boys now age 43 & 45 still talk about that adventure with Mr. Hinderholtz. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Lavern & her family. He will be dearly missed. We feel Blessed to have known him for all these years. Joyce, Jonathan, & Michael Herringer.

Joyce Herringer - June 19, 2015 at 12:32 PM

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“ Sorry for your loss. Don was a wonderful man, we will always remember his big smiles.  
-Don and Sandy Kerkman

Sandy Kerkman - June 18, 2015 at 04:50 PM

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“ my condolence to the family Don was a great man and I enjoyed talking to him at ME and he will be missed



Pat Bailey - June 17, 2015 at 09:12 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Hinderholtz.



June 17, 2015 at 09:00 PM

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“ Sorry to hear about Don's passing. He was one of the nicest guys I knew and worked with. Always looked forward to seeing him and hearing about his latest adventure. Definitely a good story teller. I was lucky to have had the privilege of knowing him.  
Lynn (Elsmo) Olive

Lynn L. Olive - June 17, 2015 at 06:43 PM

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“ Barbara and Brian purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Donald Hinderholtz.



Barbara Smith - June 17, 2015 at 06:11 PM

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“ Joanne Flock lit a candle in memory of Donald Hinderholtz



Joanne Flock - June 17, 2015 at 05:21 PM



“ I love you all god bless Don and his family. Just a passage I read: I'm Gone now, but I'm still very near.

Death can never separate us.

Each time you feel a gentle breeze,

It's my hand caressing your face.

Each time the wind blows,

It carries my voice whispering your name.

When the wind blows your hair ever so slightly,

Think of it as me pushing a few stray hairs back in place.

When you feel a few raindrops fall on your face,

It's me placing soft kisses.

At night look up in the sky and see the stars shining so brightly.

I'm one of those stars and I'm winking at you and smiling with delight.

For never forget you're the apple of my eye.

--- Mary M. Green

Love, Joanne Flock

JoanneTalwane - June 17, 2015 at 05:37 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Hinderholtz.



June 17, 2015 at 01:40 PM

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“ Don was such a special man and we enjoyed listening to his stories about his interesting travels at Miami Everglades campground. Our heartfelt sympathies to you Laverne and to your family. Love, Cory and Grace

Grace Paauw - June 17, 2015 at 07:06 AM

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“ Barbara Smith lit a candle in memory of Donald Hinderholtz



Barbara Smith - June 17, 2015 at 05:26 AM

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“ 49 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sturino Funeral Home - June 16, 2015 at 04:08 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear about my pal Don. While the time i have known him has been short, I consider him a good friend. I will always have with me the memories of laughs and stories on his patio next to the RV. Love the stories he shared of his adventures sailing his Chinese Junk and world travels. His martial advice was two words "Yes Dear") make me laugh as I write this. But I especially loved our private talks of life and he always searched for the goodness in people. He always had a cheerful hello and it seemed he could strike up a conversation with anyone. He taught me so much on how to be be a good friend. To Lavern and the Hinderholtz family may God bless you and comfort you with the cherished memories of Don and thank you so much for sharing him with us. Mark and Becky Johnson.

Mark Johnson - June 16, 2015 at 10:55 AM

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“ We are very fortunate to have met Don and heard some of his stories about their life adventures and enjoy his sense of humor. I especially liked hearing about their trip down the Mississippi!! What an adventure! He was a guy who truly lived life to the fullest! He was a great guy and we'll miss him at ME. RIP Don! Our thoughts and prayers are with LaVerne and her family as they face the days ahead.

**Jo Orvik** - June 16, 2015 at 10:28 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sue and Archer** - June 16, 2015 at 09:18 AM



“ Photo was April 2015. Jim and Peggy Lyons daughter's home in Miami. We had a fun evening! Don loved his books and was gracious in sharing with others. We loved his stories, from home and yonder. Laverne and Don were certainly soul mates. We love you both

**Archer and Sue Dowdy** - June 16, 2015 at 05:34 PM

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“ I will always remember that Don would thank me for doing Laverne's hair, saying she looked years younger, and he didn't want to do it. :) I will remember "steak night" at the Legion, and Don and Laverne's stories about their travels, and going to breakfast with them on Sundays. Don was a very kind man, he always appreciated anything done for him, and loved Laverne so. I am so glad Mariann was here to spend months in the winter with them, surely that meant a lot to all of them. He will be missed by Brian and I and all at ME.

**Barbara** - June 15, 2015 at 08:13 PM

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“ LaVerne, ah poo, we are eastbound on I-90 in Rapid City, SD and plan on seeing you early July - You and Don are such great people and we, Peggy Anne and Karl Kuehne are greatly saddened to hear of Dons passing... I talked to him last month and am glad to have chatted with him. Our condolences. We will call in a few weeks.

**Karl and Peggy Anne Kuehne** - June 15, 2015 at 07:52 PM

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“ I will always remember Don riding over on his bike to see if all was well at my trailer. He was always willing to help. He gave me my first bike, a blue ladies no gears, just a plain bike so I could ride to the club house. You will be missed.

**shirley** - June 15, 2015 at 07:42 PM

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“ shirley is following this tribute.

**shirley** - June 15, 2015 at 07:27 PM

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“ Jean and I are so glad we met both Don and Laverne at Miami Everglades. We shared so many good times and had great conversations about almost anything, We'll both miss his stories and humor, but we will not soon forget him. It's hard to say goodbye so instead we'll just look forward to meeting him again in that big campground that awaits us all. Thanks, Don, for all the great memories and for all the tidbits of knowledge from your life experiences. Peace.

Larry & Jean McDonald

**Larry McDonald** - June 15, 2015 at 06:52 PM

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“ We loved visiting with Don and Laverne in Miami where he spent many wonderful years in the campground.... He loved life and really lived it to the fullest. He will be missed.... Our thoughts and prayers are with Laverne and her family....

**Mary & Lonnie Piatt** - June 15, 2015 at 06:33 PM

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“ I will miss those morning chats at coffee. He was such an interesting man who had such a caring way about him.

**Mike Craig** - June 15, 2015 at 04:47 PM

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“ Laverne, from our home up here to you and yours, our heartfelt condolences. Don's humor and grand look on all things in life kept us smiling many a time. Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family in this time of loss.



**Jean-Marie Menard and Barbara Treagus** - June 15, 2015 at 04:33 PM