

DONALD FRANK KING



Age 84, beloved husband of Marlene King for 58 years, passed away on January 2, 2024, in Bethesda, Maryland after a recent move from Pittsburgh, PA.

Donald, known to friends and loved ones as Don, was born on October 7, 1939 in Sewickley, Pennsylvania to James and Thelma King of Neville Island and lived in Franklin Park, PA.

Don was full-time with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in Coraopolis, PA, retiring as Master Sergeant after more than thirty four years. He led the 28th Signal Battalion Mechanical Division contributing his incredible mechanical skills. Luckily for this Battalion, Don could fix absolutely anything that had an engine!

Outside of work, Don had a passion for hunting, fishing and spending time at his camp in the Smethport, PA area. He enjoyed yard work and riding his tractor, cooking and loved watching the Steelers. In his youth, Don showed off his athletic talents and coordination as the captain of his high school football team on Neville Island.

Together with Marlene, they raised a beautiful family in Franklin Park, PA. Don is survived by his wife, Marlene King; his sons Donald King, Kenny King (Lisa Stransky); his daughter, Dawn Smith (Mark Smith); 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Don was preceded in death by his brother, Jim King and his wife, Joan King of Neville Island.

Don will be remembered for his incredible strength and perseverance. He bravely fought through two cancer battles and impressively survived a severe fall. The family compliment describes him as 'bionic' - a human that defied odds and difficulty. From his memorable advice to family members on how to prepare and cook steak, to his concern and caring questions about each family member - including the dogs - he will be greatly missed. Donald King, known by many other names of affection (Don, Panda, Bear, Dad and Pap) touched the lives of many with his strength, dry humor, kindness and professional expertise.

The celebration of life service will be held at a later date outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Christopher Reeves Foundation, a cause that became more meaningful to the family after understanding and living through the devastation of paralysis.

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