



Don Carpenter

September 20, 1932 - May 9, 2009

Don Harold Carpenter, Sr., 76, of Durant passed away early Saturday morning after a long battle with cancer. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at 2:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Durant. Brother James Robinson will officiate with Former Governor George Nigh speaking.

Don Harold Carpenter, Sr. was born on September 20, 1932 in Durant, OK to Harold Hunter and Hazel Othelia (Potts) Carpenter. He grew up in Durant where his great-grandfather began a furniture and hardware store in the late 1800's. As the business evolved over the years and was passed through the family, it became known as the Carpenter Machine and Supply. He graduated from Durant High School and enrolled in Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) in 1950. While at SOSU he was involved with many groups and activities, including the band, playing the Alto Sax and was drum major, the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity, and the Blue Key Honor Fraternity. After graduating in 1954 with a BA in Business Administration, he was drafted into the United States Army where he became the Drum Mayor of the 392nd Army Band stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia. When he was discharged in April of 1956 he returned to Durant where he went to work in his father's machine shop. Eventually, however the long hours and tough working conditions convinced him to look at other options. On January 1, 1966, he accepted a position in SOSU's Technology Use Studies Center which was offered to him by University President, Dr. Allen Shearer. He stayed with the TUSC until 1969 when he became the chairman of the Aviation Department. He had been flying most of his life and the Aviation Department was right where he wanted to be. He never thought he would leave but in 1974 he was offered an opportunity to become involved with a local insurance business and he accepted. After being associated with SOSU as a student and as a faculty member, he had one final opportunity to directly influence the University when he was appointed to the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges in 1984. In 1995 he was selected by the SOSU Alumni Association to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. From his return to Durant in 1956 through the day he passed away he has not only served

the University but was also involved with community events and organizations. For 10 years he served on the School Board of the Durant Public Schools and was the President of the Oklahoma State School Boards Association in 1973. In 1970 he served as president of the Durant Chamber of Commerce, but it is his contributions to the community through his involvement with the Lions Club that invoked his sincerest emotions. The past few years his greatest companion had been 'Missy', his Jack-Russell Terrier and was able to see her the weekend before his death. He enjoyed flying and playing golf. He was a people-person and enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone. His family was the joy of his life and he cherished all the time he was able to spend with them. Don will be greatly missed by everyone who's life he touched and all his family and friends.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Eli and Gillie K. Carpenter; and aunt, Mary Carpenter Spiller.

Don has left to cherish his memory a son, Don H. Carpenter, Jr. and wife Elizabeth of Ada, OK; a daughter, Cindy Newell and husband Mike of Buena Vista, CO; grandsons; David Newell of Edmond, OK, Chris Carpenter and wife Jessica of Broken Arrow, OK, Jeff Carpenter of Ada, OK, and Daniel Carpenter of Ada, OK; a granddaughter, Andrea Newell of Buena Vista, CO; and his first great-grandson, Cade Carpenter of Broken Arrow, OK; cherished cousins Joe Foote and wife Jody of Norman, OK and Jack Foote and wife Judy of Sacramento, CA; as well as many other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers will be: Bill Trent, Joe Clay, Gordon Wright, David Hughes, John Massey, Ed Mills, Roger Webb, and Glen Johnson.

Honorary Pallbearers will be: Larry Williams, Jim Tyler, and Tom Lackey.

Music will be by his grandson, Jeff Carpenter and Brad Clonch.

Tribute Wall



“ *Don Carpenter*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Extending our deepest sympathies and best wishes to the family of Don Carpenter, Sr.*

Linda Bass - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with everyone who was lucky enough to have been touched or helped by Don. My first thought was I am sure Buddy and Holly are glad to see their Daddy!! Don was so sweet to me and my family and was always generous with his time and advice. I will miss him so much.*

Jaime Williams - May 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Don,*

Condolences to you and your family.

May God bless you and keep you and give you peace.

JS

Joe & Candy Sherbert - May 15, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was a student at SOSU from 1967 to 1973. From 1968 to 1971, I worked for the Aviation Department while attending college. Don Carpenter was MR. PERSONALITY. He was nothing but gracious to me and he wrote a great letter of recommendation for me when I applied at IBM...oh, by the way, I got the job and spent 30 years with IBM. I last saw Don at a SOSU baseball game in 2007 and he was the same great personality that I remembered him. Thank you, Mr. Carpenter, for all you did for me. You will be missed!*

Barbara Wigley - May 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ My thoughts and prayers go to you and yours at this time of loss. Mr. Carpenter was a wonderful man and always went out of his way to be of help to me and my family. He will be fondly remembered.

Curtis Kitchens - May 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ My wife and I wanted to let the family know that we are praying for you in this time of loss. My Dad, R.D. Rider, was a close friend of

Don's all his life and thought very highly of him. I know that he will be missed, but he is in a place now where he is free from pain.

Terry Rider

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Rider - May 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Dear Don and Cindy,

I am truly sorry for your loss, your father was a true inspiration for me, and all that knew him, and a great friend.

Sincerely,

Randy Tyler

Randy Tyler - May 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ My condolences to the Carpenter family. I went to school with Don's kids. I last saw him on a trip to Durant not long ago. I had not seen him or talked with him for several years before that. He was still the same man that I remembered years ago. A great asset to the City of Durant. Rest in peace, Don.

Lloyd Wheeler - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ WHAT A GREAT LOSS TO THE
COMMUNITY AND A SAD LOSS TO
FRIENDS AND FAMILY. I ALWAYS HAD LOTS OF FUN AROUND DON. HE
WAS AN INSPIRATION TO BE
AROUND. I WILL MISS HIM AS A
FRIEND.REGRETFULLY I CAN NOT
ATTEND THE SERVICES.

L.B. HOYLE - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ It was too sudden. I still had a bag of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups in my car to drop off at Four Seasons. His face always lit up when I brought them in. (Now I have to eat them...)

I am so sorry for your grief.

Don and I became friends due to a mutual love of flying. When he found out I was losing my best friend to cancer 2 years ago he called me and said "I have a surprise for you." And he took me to the airport and up in the air in his plane. It was the only thing that could have brought a smile back to my face, and I will never forget his compassion.

He adored you all.

He truly made a difference to Oklahoma.

God bless you - Alison Poe

Alison Poe - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I read Don's obituary in today's Oklahoman. Don was a patient of mine for several years, and we became good friends. I really admired him and know he was highly respected in his community. I have been aware of his cancer issue for some time. He will be in my prayers. John R. Bozalis, M.D.

john r. bozalis,m.d. - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Don was the first one to insure me at 16 and even though I moved away for a couple of years after I got married he still remembered who I was. He truly was a people person and made everyone he knew feel good.

Angela Cardoza - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Don embraced life to the fullest. He had a smile and kind word for everyone. His love for his family was obvious to all. Our heartfelt sympathy for his family and friends. He will be greatly missed...

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Chris, Paula, and Paige Thurmond - May 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Our sincere sympathy to Don's family. We always appreciated Don's commitment to Southeastern & his kindness in so many other ways.

Liz & Kirk

Liz & Kirk Ashton - May 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ Don never met a stranger, he always had something to say and made you feel as if you were the most important person he had in the insurance business. He will be greatly missed not just as a friend but to the community as well. My heart goes out to his family and closest friends.

Kenya Inman - May 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Our prayers are with your family. God has gained a beautiful person in his kingdom and we have lost a great man!

Cindi Gill - May 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM