



Donald P. Richards

November 25, 1922 - January 29, 2013

Donald P. (Don) Richards, Topeka, died Tuesday, January 29, 2013. Don was a journalist, a professional photographer, and a travel agent specializing in international group tours. He was born on November 25, 1922 in St. Joseph, MO, the son of James C. and Virginia Kindig Richards. The family moved to Manhattan in 1931 where Don attended and was graduated from the Sacred Heart Academy grade and high school. He enrolled at Kansas State University in September 1940 and graduated with a degree in Industrial Journalism three years later in 1943. Don enlisted in the Army in June 1942 while enrolled in the ROTC program at Kansas State. He attended Infantry officers training at Fort Benning, Ga. and was ordered overseas to the European Theater in June 1944. He served as a platoon leader in the 317th Regiment, 80th Infantry Division, Third Army. He was wounded in the Battle of the Moselle, Eastern France and returned to the 317th during the Battle of the Bulge and was with the unit until the war ended in Europe. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the ETO Theater Ribbon with four stars. In July 1945 he volunteered as a photo officer in the Third Army's 166th Signal Photo Company which was scheduled to go from Europe to the Pacific Theater for the invasion of Japan. The Japanese war ended while the photo company was readying for debarkation at Marseilles, France. The company was then broken up and Don was assigned to Oise headquarters at Reims then transferred to Western Base Headquarters in Paris. He returned to the U.S. in July 1946 Don married

Donna Hassur in Parsons August 26, 1946 and accepted a position as sports editor for the Parsons Sun at that time. In January 1947 Don and Donna moved to Los Angeles, CA so he could attend the Fred Archer School of Photography, a two-year program in professional photography. In Los Angeles, Donna was employed by the FBI. In September 1949 the couple moved to Columbia, MO where Don became director of public relations photography and an instructor in photography for Stephens College. In June 1951, the Richards returned to Kansas as Don joined the staff of the Kansas Industrial Development Commission as a writer and photographer for the state magazine, "To the Stars". In 1952 he was named editor of the magazine and in 1957 was instrumental in changing the name of the magazine to "KANSAS!" which is published today by the Kansas Department of Commerce. In 1964, Don joined the information office at the Menninger Foundation and a year later became director of the office, a position he held until his retirement in 1978. In 1982 Don became co-owner and president of a travel agency in Overland Park and began specializing in organizing group tours for international travel. For 25 years the Richards traveled the world with business and tourist groups visiting countries in all continents except Australia. In the early 1950's Don organized his own company, Photography House, Inc. producing books and postcards for four Presidential Libraries, Boot Hill Museum, and the Kansas State Historical Society. He was a successful magazine, advertising and architectural photographer. Don was an active member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Topeka and served as the first moderator of its lay council and president of its PTA. He was an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America and a charter member and president of the Topeka Public Relations Society. He was a board member of both the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. He was a past member and former president of the Cosmopolitan Club of Topeka. He was a member of the Fortnightly Club, the Military Officers Association of America and the Legion of Honor, Arab Shrine. Don was the chairman of the Veterans Committee to establish a

World War II memorial at Kansas State University. Don is survived by his wife, Donna, and three children: Robert, Denver, CO; Patricia, Los Altos, CA; Douglas, Hot Springs, AK; and two grandchildren, Christopher and Kevin Coulter, Los Altos, CA. A parish rosary will be prayed at 5 p.m. Friday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614 where family will greet friends until 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, 3601 SW 17th St, Topeka KS 66604. Inurnment will be private at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Most Pure Heart of Mary Church or Midland Hospice Care, sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald P. Richards*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Pat*

*Our prayers are with you and your family right now.
Let me know if you need anything while you are away.*

Donna and Randy Antosiak

Donna Antosiak - January 31, 2013 at 09:02 PM



“ *To the Family: I am so sorry for your loss. The death of a loved one is never an easy matter for any of us to cope with, but we do have the assurance of our Heavenly Father that he will comfort us in all our tribulations. (Psalms 55:22) Death was never a part of the Creator's purpose for mankind, so, he has furnished a guarantee by means of his Son, Christ Jesus, that we will see our loved ones again. (Acts 24:15; John 5:28) I pray that you may draw comfort from these words.*

Carolyn Calhoun - January 31, 2013 at 06:13 PM



“ *Pat and family,
I was sorry to learn of your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Rose Ann Ludwig Morrow - January 31, 2013 at 06:06 PM

AT

“ We never met Don but heard wonderful stories about him and Donna though their daughter, Pat. What a wonderful full life Don lived! We are thankful for his service to our Country and are blessed because of the many ways he contributed to his community. The family is in our prays! We love you all.

Anthony & Felicia Thompson - January 31, 2013 at 05:12 PM

GT

“ To Don's family: Don was a good friend of the Washburn Art Department. He worked with us many times to make travel arrangments for our art study trips. I always enjoyed his cheerful personality and expertise in planning great experiences for students. My condolences to you. We will remember Don fondly.

Glenda Taylor - January 31, 2013 at 03:59 PM

RH

“ Donna: I am sorry to learn of Don's passing--another of the "greatest generation." I last saw him at the gathering of Battle of the Bulge families in Manhattan a couple of years ago, where he shared his fascinating experiences as a courier behind enemy lines.

My best wishes are with you. Please let me know if I can do anything to help you at this time.

Richard Hayse - January 31, 2013 at 03:26 PM

BB

“ Our condolences to you, Donna and family, for the loss of a very good man.

We enjoyed our occasional visits with Don, always most friendly with a great smile on his face.

Via con Dios, Don.

Barney and Mary Dean Byard - January 31, 2013 at 01:24 PM

MM

“ Donna, I am so sorry to hear of Don's passing. I know you will miss him tremendously. George and I so enjoyed our travels with you to China, Russia, and Germany. Don was an excellent tour organizer and gentleman. May God grant you and your family healing and peace.

Marion Menge

Marion Menge - January 31, 2013 at 12:26 PM

BB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you grieve the passing of your father, Don. Brian is leaving town this morning and I will unfortunately not be able to attend the funeral, as I am caring for dad as he has been down with the stomach flu. Please know that we love you and care. Having experienced the recent loss of our mom and the sudden transitions involved in caring for a spouse who is terminally ill, we understand the complexities and the bittersweet moments in life. We are also confident that God will supply your every need as you look to Him for strength, comfort and peace. Your dad accomplished much success in life. May the memories of your time spent with him encourage you, bless you and inspire you!

Love,

Brian, Mary Ann and Kyle Burris

Brian, Mary Ann and Kyle Burris - January 31, 2013 at 08:21 AM