



## Donald Lawrence O'Brien

January 17, 1933 - March 10, 2023

Donald Lawrence O'Brien

Age 90, of Reddick, IL entered eternal life on Friday, March 10, 2023 following a short illness. Born January 17, 1933, the 6th child of William T. and Loretta (nee Clodi) O'Brien. Donnie was a little guy who lived a big life. He graduated from Reddick High School in 1951 and worked on the family farm and as a truck driver until he was called to serve his country. Following his service in the US Army in Korea (1953-54), Donnie returned to Reddick and soon bought a fancy car that caught the eye of the love of his life, Norma. Norma Masching and Donald O'Brien were married on April 27, 1957 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Campus, IL and settled in the Reddick area where they built their life and raised their family. Loving and caring for Norma was truly Donnie's life work and from that love all of his many blessings and cherished relationships flowed. Donnie worked hard and played hard with Norma by his side. Together they loved to travel, often with Donnie's beloved cousin, Veronica (nee McGuire) Mudron and her husband, Shadow, as well as shopping for antiques, attending farm shows, playing euchre, making puzzles, wintering in their beloved home in N. Ft. Myers, FL and dancing every chance he got.

Donnie worked at a number of different jobs and was proud to be a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #265 in Carol Stream, IL, owned and operated O'Brien Trucking, was Highway Commissioner for Norton Township

for sixteen years, but his passion was always farming. He was always happiest when he could be in a tractor. He also believed in the importance of community service and served as a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #2503, Dwight VFW Post #2608, American Legion Post #486, charter member of the Union Hill Lions Club, was a lifelong Democrat and devout member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick.

Donnie is survived by Norma as well as their 5 children and their families: Melinda (Dan) Hogan; Bill (Cheryl); John; Mary Kay (Todd Gereaux); and Patrick (Karen); Grandchildren: Matt (Laura) Hogan, Will (Lauren) Hogan, Jack Hogan, Mackenzie O'Brien, Donnie O'Brien, Connor O'Brien, Colleen (Garrett) Hodge, Jacqueline O'Brien, Mason Gereaux, Michael Gereaux, Matthew Gereaux, Kelsey (Mike) Donath, Ashley O'Brien and Maggie O'Brien; great grandchildren: Michael Hogan, Marilyn Hogan, Paisley Hodge, Layton Donath and one on the way in June, as well as honorary son, Terry Joyce and honorary grandson Jonathon Romanetto. Don is also survived by his brother Paul (the late Lois) O'Brien, his brother and sister in law Bill and Donna Masching, sisters in law, Ruth Schott and Rita King as well as a legion of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Donnie was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, Donald O'Brien; siblings, Marie (Tommy Woods) Berns, Francis (Aldine) O'Brien, Gerald O'Brien and Phyllis (Glen) Buza and their spouses, his brother in law Ed (Lucille) Masching, sister in law Lucille Turner, and his beloved "outlaw" brothers in law; Dennis (Mac) Turner, Kim Schott and Marion King.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Family and friends are welcome to meet at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick, Saturday, March 18, 2023 for a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Inurnment with military honors will immediately follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Campus, IL. Guests are also welcome to attend the Celebration of Life for Donald that will follow at

approximately 12:30 p.m. at Station 343 Firehouse Restaurant in Dwight. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, is entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to the St. Mary's Catholic Church or Lightways Hospice would be appreciated.

# Cemetery Details

## Sacred Heart Cemetery

North 3300 East Road: Approximately 3 miles  
south of Rt. 17  
Campus, IL 60920

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 18. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Reddick, IL

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ Dear Norma,  
Please accept our condolences from our entire family. My mother, Loretta Mitchell, and father, Frank, both would have expressed their best wishes to you, had they not passed. Now, Don can get back together with his many Reddick family and friends, our mother included. May he rest in peace.

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**Gary T Mitchell** - March 18, 2023 at 02:39 PM

BT

“ My condolences to the O'Brien family. Brenda Raber Labaj

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**Brenda Labaj Momence Township** - March 18, 2023 at 11:46 AM

TB

“ The Reddick community sure will miss Donnie. So many great memories and such a great family. We have been close neighbors for 37 years. I will miss seeing Donnie on his lawn mower as I drive by his house in the summer months. RIP and forever Irish Strong !!!

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**Tom and Sue Bergan** - March 17, 2023 at 11:31 PM

RM

“ To the family of Don O'Brien, Ron Metzka and family would like to extend our sincere condolences. He was a great man and very nice. He will be missed greatly and the Sheet Metal Retirees luncheons won't be the same without him. We are so sorry for your loss.

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**Ronald Metzka** - March 17, 2023 at 05:18 PM

JK

“ Dear family of Don, please accept and extend my regards concerning the passing of Commissioner O'Brien. Donnie and I weren't always of the same political mind, but thankfully neither of us took ourselves too seriously. I enjoyed spending time with Donnie both professionally and socially. I miss his ribbing me about one thing or another. Donnie made my work fun. Rest in peace my friend.

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**Jim Piekarczyk, Co. Engr. (Retired)** - March 17, 2023 at 12:14 PM

PK

“ Our Prayers and sincere condolences to the O'Brien Family. 🙏 I will miss truly miss listening to the stories he would tell the times I did get to share with him... God Bless.

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**Phillip and Gloria Kupiec** - March 16, 2023 at 08:13 PM

DC

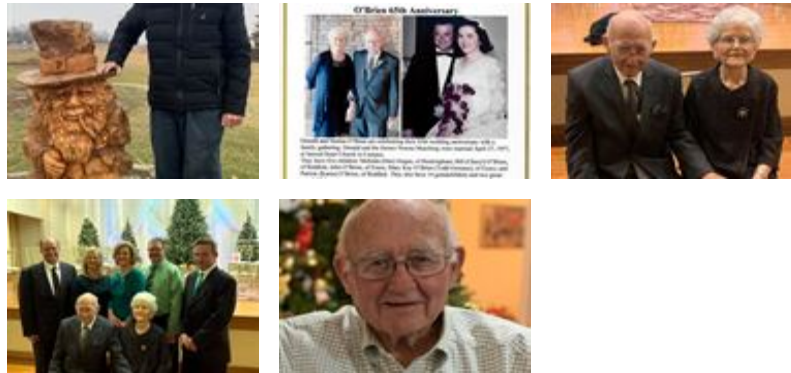
“ Sincere condolences to the O'brien family . Our thoughts and prayers are with the O'brien's .  
Dean and Kyle cunning

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**Dean Cunning** - March 16, 2023 at 04:26 PM



“ 190 files added to the album LifeTributes



R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - March 16, 2023 at 01:46 PM

RR

“ The girls and I were so sorry to learn of Don's passing. We always looked forward to Don and Norma's visits to the office. Don was a great story teller and always had an opinion to share. We had great discussions about all of life's wonderful adventures. We will miss him greatly.

*Dr Robert Raley, Ruth and Kelly.*

ROBERT A. RALEY DPM SC Raley - March 16, 2023 at 10:20 AM

PN

“ Becky and I wish to express our deepest of sympathies to the O'Brien family. Don was great friend.

*May God Bless Don to eternal peace.*

*Phil and Becky Novak*

phil novak - March 15, 2023 at 05:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd.** - March 15, 2023 at 05:32 PM

JH

“ So very sorry to hear about Donnie's passing. The obituary was so well written and the sentence "Donnie was a little guy who lived a big life!" was so great to see. It was obvious that he was a wonderful husband, father, man, friend, etc. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Hang on to those precious memories! Sending thoughts and prayers. Jackie Hernandez

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**Jackie Hernandez** - March 15, 2023 at 12:25 PM

DS

“ So sorry for your loss. He was a very sweet man. He will always be with you in your memories and your heart. Prayers of peace, joy and happiness as you grieve and remember him.

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**Diana (Melrose) Smith** - March 14, 2023 at 11:33 PM

CE

“ Deepest sympathy to your family. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all during this difficult time.



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**Chris & Sheree Earley** - March 14, 2023 at 07:16 PM

MC

“ Sincere condolences.  
Sue and Pat Foley  
Michele and Matt Cannon

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**Michele Cannon** - March 14, 2023 at 07:04 PM

CW

“ Sincere condolences, thoughts, and prayers ... God bless 🙏  
Jim and Caryl Foy and Family

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**Caryl Wadley-Foy** - March 14, 2023 at 05:18 PM

RK

“ We are so so sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved Donald.  
We will keep your entire family in our prayers from Roger and  
Glendal Kilbride.

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**Roger and Glendal Kilbride** - March 14, 2023 at 04:20 PM

JO

“ Melinda and Family, so sorry to hear about your Dad!  
What a great life he led and fortunate to be able to pass on his  
values and beliefs to his family. I hope the emptiness and sadness  
you feel from his passing, will be filled with the loving memories that  
you all have of him in your hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with  
you.  
Sincerely, Joanne Leveille (Reed-Custer co-worker with Melinda)

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**joanne.levaille** - March 14, 2023 at 03:13 PM

JH

“ Condolences to the family and blessings for comfort.

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**Judge Sherri Hale** - March 14, 2023 at 03:04 PM

PW

“ *My condolences to the entire family.*

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**Pat Woulfe** - March 14, 2023 at 02:24 PM

DO

“ *To the family i am so sorry for the loss of your patriarch...he was a wonderful man and raised wonderful children to carry on. God's blessings to all during this grieving process*

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**Deborah Overacker** - March 14, 2023 at 12:35 PM

BL

“ *Patrick and Family,  
It is with great sorrow we felt when we heard the news of your fathers passing. Patrick, I will be unable to attend services as I will be out of town with my grandson. But know that my family will be thinking about you and your family as you navigate this sad time. My family sends to your family, Love, Light and Prayers. ❤️☀️🙏  
Sincerely, Bonnie Dvorak, Michele Galloway &  
Luke Galloway.*

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**Bonnie Dvorak, Michele Galloway & Luke** - March 13, 2023 at 02:57 PM