



## Donald "Don" H. McDowell

February 4, 1935 - June 6, 2024

Donald "Don" Herbert McDowell, age 89 of Mattoon, IL passed away Thursday, June 6, 2024 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, IL. A funeral service in his honor will be held at 10:00 AM, Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Ron Dickinson will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow in Dodge Grove Cemetery. The visitation will be held Wednesday evening, June 12, 2024, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the funeral home.

Don was born on February 4, 1935, in Mattoon, IL to the late Ray A. and Mabel F. (Reagan) McDowell. He married the love of his life, Mildred "Midge" A. Tinsman on April 11, 1954; she preceded his death on July 23, 2016. He is survived by two daughters, Sheri Rodebaugh and husband Mike of Toledo, IL, Marlisse McDowell of Toledo, IL; one granddaughter, Kirsten Hurst and husband Joel Rodely of Nampa, ID; two step-grandsons, T.J. Rodebaugh and wife Jen of Alexandria, VA, Jeremy Rodebaugh and wife Abigail of Tuscola, IL; four step-grandchildren Grace and Alex Rodebaugh of Mahomet, IL; Payton and Leia Rodebaugh of Tuscola, IL. He is preceded in death by four brothers: James, Wayne, Lyle, Bob McDowell; two sisters, Marge Ganley, Dort Easter; and one foster son, Steve Rogers.

Mr. McDowell served as the Director of Camp New Hope for twenty-six years. Along with his beloved wife, Midge, Don was instrumental in the success of the camp and dedicated his life to the happiness and well-being of the

developmentally disabled. He was actively and passionately involved with Special Olympics Family Festival, served as President of Parent Group, and CCAR Board of Directors.

He retired from Mattoon Community School District #2 after forty years of dedicated service as a school bus driver and was previously employed by Coca-Cola for twenty-six years. He held memberships at Mattoon Eagles Lodge, Sons of the American Legion, and International Order of Odd Fellows. Don was a true gentleman with a smile that lit up the room. He was kind-hearted, thoughtful, and genuine. He loved his family dearly and he was deeply loved by many. He leaves behind an everlasting legacy of being a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and friend to all.

The family would like to thank the staff on the third floor at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center for all the special care and love that made Don's final days amazing.

Memorials in his honor may be made to Camp New Hope, 1364 County Rd 100 E, Neoga, IL 62447.

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in his honor or share a memory with the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Dodge Grove Cemetery

917 North 22nd Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 12.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
[contact@mitchelljerdan.com](mailto:contact@mitchelljerdan.com)  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

## Service

**JUN 13.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
[contact@mitchelljerdan.com](mailto:contact@mitchelljerdan.com)  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ Dear my name Jon Ferguson I know don from camp new hope when I was a kid I'm so sorry about don he was good friend of my when I grown up we had alot of fun together when I was a kid at camp new hope I was close to midge too my prayers are with you God blessed you and your family Jon Ferguson 🌹🌹🙏🙏



Jon ferguson - September 09, 2024 at 11:27 PM

SJ

“ Sylvia Jerdan lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" H. McDowell



Sylvia Jerdan - June 14, 2024 at 08:24 PM

KS

“ Sheri, I am so sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed talking to Don when he was the bus driver. Such a special man. Sincerely, Karen Sampson

Karen Sampson - June 12, 2024 at 08:51 PM

CT

“ Dear Sheri and family,  
So sorry to hear of Don’s passing. Both he and your mother were special to me. Please know you will all be in my thoughts and prayers.  
Sincerely,  
Connie Thomas

-----  
**connie Thomas** - June 11, 2024 at 07:51 PM

TR

“ TJ & Jen Rodebaugh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald "Don" H. McDowell.

-----  
**TJ & Jen Rodebaugh** - June 10, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" H. McDowell.



-----  
June 10, 2024 at 09:19 AM

CS

“ Don was a fine man and such an inspiration for many. My thoughts are with the family during this time.

-----  
**Clyde Self** - June 09, 2024 at 07:03 PM

JG

“ We worked with Don and Midge for many years for the improvement of services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Don was very passionate about his work, his family and community. Rest in Peace.

*Don and Jan Grewell*

---

**Janice Grewell** - June 09, 2024 at 11:18 AM

LL

*Don McDowell was also so kind as to work together with Head Start in Cumberland County, which is a program for lower income or children with disabilities, in giving them the opportunity to lease the McDowell center for their classroom when we couldn't find any place to hold a preschool classroom. Head Start has been there for over 25 years. Head Start was so blessed he offered the room to me for my class. He was a such a caring good person. My sympathy to his family.*

---

**Linda Lacy** - June 09, 2024 at 06:09 PM

PL

*Sheri & Mike, I am so sorry to hear you lost our "Dad". Don was indeed the best of everything to all. Peace, great thoughts, wonderful memories, and prayers to your family.*

*Pat Luedke*

---

**Pat Luedke** - June 12, 2024 at 05:37 PM

KC

“ Kathi Sewell Cobble lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" H. McDowell



---

**kathi sewell cobble** - June 09, 2024 at 08:22 AM