



Paul Donald "Don" Cockrum

January 11, 1945 - January 25, 2021

Paul Donald "Don" Cockrum, age 76 of Mattoon, IL passed away at 1:34 PM, Monday, January 25, 2021 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, IL.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, located at 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 is in charge of services.

Don was born on January 11, 1945 in Vincennes, IN to the late Paul C. and Kathryn P. (Cardinal) Cockrum. He married Ida M. Newton on December 21, 1967 in Mt. Carmel, IL; she survives and resides in Mattoon, IL. Other survivors include two daughters, Stephanie L. Cockrum of Mattoon, IL, Erin C. Cockrum and husband Justin Toction of Champaign, IL; two grandchildren, Jerrod C. Evans and significant other Courtney Thomas of Mattoon, IL, Charles J. Cockrum of Mattoon, IL; one great-grandchild, Elliott Grace Evans of Mattoon, IL; one brother, Cyrus R. Cockrum of Colorado Springs, CO; and one sister, Patricia Hayden and husband Roger of Havana, FL. He is preceded in death by one sister, Jacqueline S. Stovall; and one great-grandchild, Cohen Thomas Evans.

Don honorably served our country in the United States of America Army during the Vietnam Era and was stationed at the Berlin Wall in Germany. He

was a lifetime member of the Mattoon VFW Post 4325.

Don retired from Mattoon Community School District #2 as a bus driver, a job he greatly enjoyed and took pride in. He was a former employee of Downtown Ford, Anaconda, General Electric, and manager and truck driver for Rural King in Mattoon, IL.

He enjoyed helping others and volunteering his time at various local organizations. He was a former commissioner and coach for Ponytail Baseball and actively involved at Camp New Hope, where he liked driving the boat on the lake.

Don loved the game of golf and was a self-proclaimed "avid duffer." He was a devout member of Rogala Public Links in Mattoon, IL. He also cherished his times on various PGA courses throughout the country and even Jamaica. He enjoyed his Tuesday night bowling league and early morning breakfast with his friends at the Downtown Diner.

Most important to Don was his family. His children and grandchildren were the light of his life. He was loved immensely and will be missed.

Memorials in his honor may be made to Camp New Hope, 1364 County Rd 100 E, Neoga, IL 62447 or Coles County Habitat for Humanity, 990 West State Street, Charleston, IL 61920.

Please visit www.mitchell-jerdan.com or www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul Donald "Don" Cockrum*

October 08, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ *I never knew him personally. I just remember always seeing him years ago in rural king. He always had a smile and treated you like you were a friend. Cherish your great memories as I do. Have comfort through Jesus Christ.*

John Philpott - January 29, 2021 at 10:30 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss, My thoughts and prayers are with you Ida and your family. May God Bless. Linda Stevens*

Linda Stevens - January 29, 2021 at 09:58 AM



“ *Ida, Stephanie and Erin, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. John and Jane Kendall*

Jane Kendall - January 28, 2021 at 10:38 PM

JP

“ *Ida and Family,
Don was such a special person and friend. He was a
compassionate and caring person to all, especially his family. Many
field trips were made memorable with Don with his expertise and
humor. He will be missed by so many. May you all be comforted by
the beautiful memories and lean on all your friends and family that
care about you all so much. We will continue to keep you in our
prayers and in the days ahead. Much love and comfort to all.*

Jerry and Mary Parker - January 28, 2021 at 06:43 PM

TW

“ *Such a nice man. We always knew our kids were safe when Don
was driving the bus to ball games and appreciated his dedication to
keeping them safe. Always enjoyed talking softball with him.
Sympathy and prayers to your family.*

Terry & Christine Ward - January 28, 2021 at 05:48 PM

AK

“ *Ida, I am so sorry to hear that you have lost your beloved husband.
You are in my thoughts and prayers. Please take care of yourself.
Anita Kollmann.*

Anita Kollmann - January 28, 2021 at 11:15 AM

CS

“ *Don was a very kind and caring man. I had the fortune of working
alongside him on many a field trips we took. He always made the
trip less stressful and handled the bus with expertise. His entire
family are in my thoughts during this dark time.
Clyde Self*

Clyde Self - January 28, 2021 at 08:15 AM

KC

“ *Kathi L Cobble lit a candle in memory of Paul Donald "Don" Cockrum*



kathi l cobble - January 27, 2021 at 10:37 PM

TK

“ *Stephanie, Erin and Mrs. Cockrum, My thoughts are with you all I am so sorry for your loss. He was such a great man I remember many ponytail baseball games and cookouts with our families. May he rest in peace.*



Tish Zigler Kirk

Tish Zigler Kirk - January 27, 2021 at 05:59 PM