Donald "Don" L. Atkinson, 99, of Hazelton, Idaho, passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls, Idaho. Don was peacefully discharged from this rat race at the young age of 99 ⅔ under the competent and loving care of his family, Bridgeview Assisted Living, and Horizon Hospice. He said he wanted to be a teenager again, but we all know he really always was one.

It almost seems the most fitting to begin this story with “Once upon a time”, because the life of Donald L. Atkinson is timeless. Born February 9, 1927, Don entered the world into the arms of a shell-shocked generation just recovering from the Great War and Spanish Flu as one of four brothers, only to be carried into a Great Depression. Since hard times make strong people, what else can be expected? He then spent his youth plowing the earth and entered adulthood plowing head-on into World War II. Grit is something you don’t know until you recognize what it tastes like. He returned to marry his high school sweetheart, Helen Weaver, on July 20, 1947, and together they entered the next chapter with next to nothing.

Don and Helen planted themselves on a patch of dirt in Hazelton and grew beans, sugar beets, peas, hay, grain, and raised their children, Patsy, Larry, and Jeff. Their home was base camp for family gatherings and day-to-day life for many of his grandchildren. It later became the starting place of life for two great-grandchildren when he and Helen moved to Twin Falls. He returned to the farm in his later years and kept a large garden of corn, squash, beets, and potatoes. He sowed his seeds of knowledge and determination into his family, who are still harvesting those plentiful fields of his legacy four generations later.

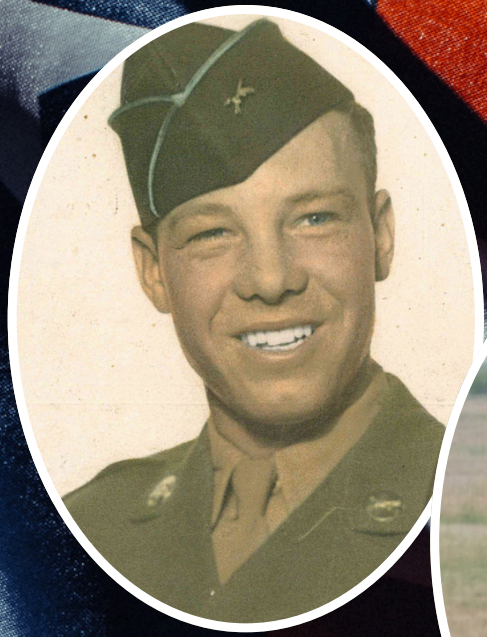
He was known to travel to BSU football games, both home and away. Don enjoyed spending time in Arizona and later in life, attending graduations for great-grandchildren and just to visit family in general. Don was a man on the move and was always wanting to stay busy.

Don is survived by his children; Patsy (Steve) Hadley, sons, Larry (Vickie) Atkinson and Jeff (Ron Kelsen) Atkinson, his grandchildren; Andy (Jenn) Atkinson, Brian (Jessie) Hadley, and Luke Hadley, ten great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren, all of whom he kept in contact with and was an active part of their lives. He is also survived by brother; Louis Atkinson.

Don is preceded in death by his wife; Helen Atkinson, his parents; Louise and Kenneth Atkinson, his brothers; Dean Atkinson and Dale Atkinson, his son-in-law, Steve Hadley.

Wilks Funeral Homes

In Loving Memory





DONALD “DON” L. ATKINSON

February 9, 1927 - October 6, 2026

Funeral Service

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Wilks Funeral Homes

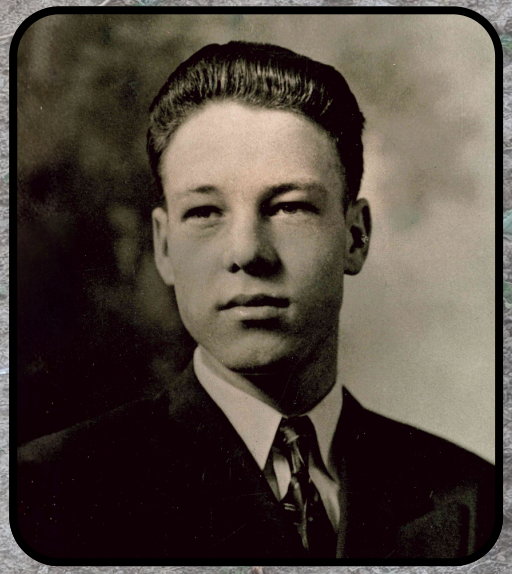
2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, Idaho

At one o’clock in the afternoon



The Lord is my Shepard; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23





In Loving Memory

Donald "Don" L. Atkinson

Funeral Service

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 ~ 1:00 PM

Wilks Funeral Home

Order of Service

Welcome & Prayer

Pastor Jim Day

Life Sketch

Andy Atkinson

Video Tribute

Message

Pastor Jim Day

Amazing Grace

Performed by Kyler Cameron

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jim Day

Concluding Service

Twin Falls Cemetery

Military Honors

United States Army Honor Guard

VFW Post 2136

Patriot Guard Riders of Idaho

Message & Prayer

Jim Day

Casket bearers

Andy Atkinson ~ Brian Hadley ~ Luke Hadley

Kaden Hadley ~ Jason Pearson ~ Kyler Cameron

Major Jordan Damschen ~ Cooper Atkinson

Honorary Casket bearers

Larry Atkinson ~ Jeff Atkinson

Aiden Hadley ~ Oakley Damschen