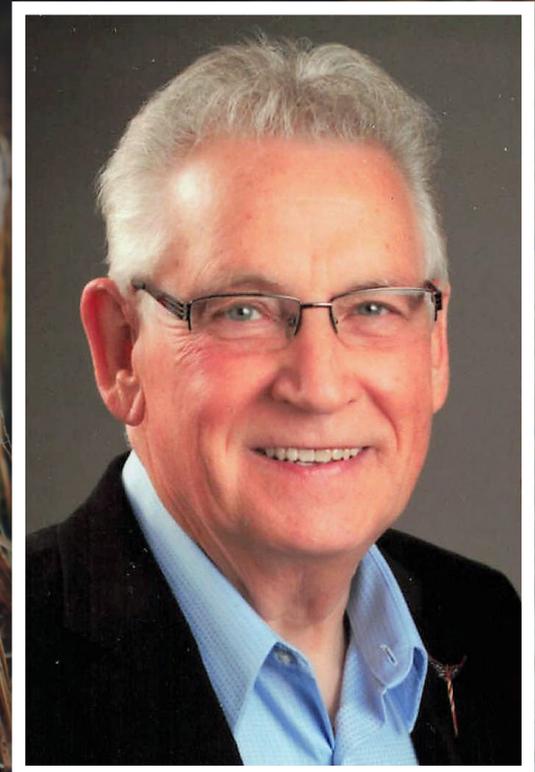




Life is not a journey with the intent to arrive safely in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside with a hammer in your hand, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming
“WOW! WHAT A RIDE”

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



DONALD K. GIFFORD

October 3, 1947 – March 9, 2025

Donald K. Gifford, 77, of Garner, passed away at his home on Sunday, March 9, 2025, with his family at his side.

Donald Kenneth Gifford, the youngest of 16 children born to John and Meta (Tietz) Gifford was born on October 3, 1947, in Burt, Iowa, and spent his formative years in Burt. He graduated from Burt High School in 1966 and married his high school sweetheart, Bobbie Ackerman, on October 22, 1966, in Burt. Don began his career at Snap On Tools in Algona before pursuing higher education, enrolling at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville in 1970, balancing his studies with nighttime work and raising a family. He furthered his education at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, graduating in 1974 with a double major in business management and marketing.

His professional journey included significant roles at Hormel Foods in Fort Dodge, Bruhn Builders as a manager and accountant, and later at Lauridsen's in Britt. In January 1991, he joined IMI Cornelius in Mason City, where he began as Human Resources Manager and steadily rose to the position of Vice President of Operations, overseeing multiple factories until his retirement in 2015. Even after retirement, he contributed his expertise to training programs at NIACC until his final retirement.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Don cherished time spent with his family and engaged in hobbies such as hunting and woodworking, where he gained recognition for his exquisite duck and bird carvings.

A devoted member of First Baptist Church in Forest City, Donald also served on the City of Garner Rec Board, demonstrating his commitment to his community.

Don is survived by his wife, Bobbie of Garner; three children, Robin (Matt) Hundley of Albert Lea, MN, Tami Jo (Brian) Bullock of Adel and Travis (Amy) Gifford of Ankeny; eight grandchildren, Chandra (John) Richmond, Sarah (Josh) Jensen, Madison (Corey) Arndorf, John (Emily) Hundley, Whitney (Adam) Rairden, Abbi Bullock, and Ava and Luke Gifford; eight great-grandchildren, Emma, Rohan, Ryker, Riley, Miriam, Leah, Bennett and Haven; a great-grandson, Briggs due in July; brothers and sisters, Deloris (Elvin) Boeckholt, Dick Gifford, Lucille (Melvin) Faber, Karen Wubben, Diana (Larry) Bunkofske; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; John and Meta Gifford; and his siblings and in-laws, Rosetta (Bob) Blumer, Elvera (Pete) Blumer, Gladys (Harley) Boeckholt, Maxine Gifford, Gordon (MaryJo) Gifford, Leona (Gene) Larson, Jack Gifford, Darlene (Perry) Gross, Gary Gifford, Jerry Gifford, Liz Gifford, Neil Wubben, Gary Ackerman, Deloris Klaas, and Linda Bunkofske.

Don's life was marked by love for Jesus, dedication to his family, professional integrity, and a passion for the arts. He will be remembered fondly.

Celebrating the Life of

DONALD K. GIFFORD

October 3, 1947 – March 9, 2025

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

First Baptist Church
Forest City, Iowa
10:30 a.m., Wednesday
March 12, 2025

OFFICIATING

Rev. Eric Weaver

MUSIC

James Anderson, Soloist
Rev. Eric Weaver, Accompanist
"Let Them See You"
"Scars In Heaven"
"I Can Only Imagine"
"God Has a Plan"

URN BEARERS

Luke Gifford Johnny Hundley
Kris Gifford Mark Behrends

INURNMENT

Burt Township Cemetery
Burt, Iowa

*All are invited to a luncheon in the church
fellowship hall immediately following the service.
Burial will follow the luncheon.*

