



Don Opie, 81, of Mobridge, passed away on April 14, 2021 at Avera Oahe Manor's Haven Unit in Gettysburg, SD, following a nearly 20-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Donald Steven Opie was born May 22, 1939 in Aberdeen, SD, to Harold J. and Catherine (Schwab) Opie. The oldest of three sons, Don was joined by brothers Robert and Jeffrey. He graduated from Aberdeen Central HS in 1958. Following graduation, Don started his career with National 'T' grocery stores. Upon transferring to the Mobridge store, Don met the love of his life, Barbara Schlepp. They were married on November 24, 1962 in Worthington, MN. They returned to Mobridge in the fall of 1963, along with their infant daughter, Holly, when Don accepted a position with Northwest Beverage. Youngest daughter, Heidi, joined the family in 1966. In addition to Northwest Beverage, Don worked for Coast-to-

Coast, and Borth's Clothing, before being named the Emergency Preparedness Director for the Warhawk Civil Defense District in 1982.

Besides his girls, Don's other love was public service to Mobridge and the surrounding region. Don joined the Mobridge Volunteer Fire Department in June 1967 and served for 37 years until retiring in 2003. Additionally, Don was Fire Chief for 20 years of that time, from 1982 to 2002. Every fire, every storm, every natural disaster, Don spent countless hours in protection of his beloved Mobridge and nearby communities. In his role as fire chief, Don's favorite activity was teaching fire safety to grade school students every spring. He served for 15+ years on the Mobridge Housing Board and was instrumental in the establishment of the Mobridge Townhouses, which were dedicated in his honor. Don also served multiple terms on the Mobridge School Board. He was a member of Jaycee's and Toastmasters, as well as the United Congregational Church.

Don was a volunteer at Mobridge schools serving as a basketball referee and as a member of the 'chain gang' at HS football games for many years. Never one to sit still, he played softball and basketball, and was an avid runner. He loved a DQ treat, the MN Vikings, country music, and a good joke.

Don was inducted into the South Dakota Firefighters Hall of Honor in 2003. He was bestowed lifetime membership to the South Dakota Firefighter's Association in June 2005, one of only 9 SD firefighters to have received the honor at that time. December 4, 2007 was declared 'Don Opie Day' by the mayor of Mobridge in acknowledgement of his dedication to the community.

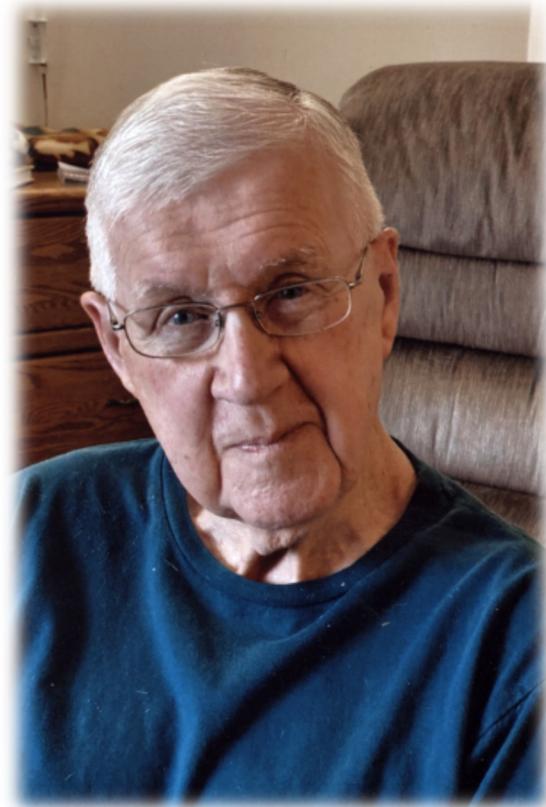
But for Don, nothing topped being called 'Grampa'. Grand-daughters Bailey, Elizabeth and Jesse were the second loves of his life.

Don is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara; daughters, Holly (Pat) Heintzman of Fargo ND, and Heidi (Joe) Roshau of Mobridge; grand-daughters Bailey Roshau of Aberdeen SD, Elizabeth Heintzman of Hammond OR, and Jesse Roshau of Onida SD; his brothers and sisters-in-law on his wife's side, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Robert and Jeff, 'Mom'-in-law Emma Schlepp, numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, and his adored canine companions, Alex and Jack.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the administration and staff at The Haven wing of Avera Oahe Manor in Gettysburg for their compassionate and loving care of Don.

Pursuant to Don's wishes, a public service will not be held. Inurnment will be at Mo-

In Loving Memory of:



Donald Opie

May 22, 1939

April 14, 2021

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Donald Opie

81 Years ~ 10 Months ~

23 Days



*God looked around His garden
And He found a empty place,
He looked down upon the earth
And saw your face.*

*He put His arms around you
and lifted you to rest*

*God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain,*

*He knew that you would never
get well on earth again.*

*He saw that the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb.*

*So He closed your weary eyelids
and whispered, "Peace be thine"*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you didn't go alone.*

*For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.*

BORN:
May 22, 1939
Aberdeen, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY:
April 14, 2021
Gettysburg, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICES:
Monday, April 19, 2021
United Congregational Church
Mobridge, South Dakota

CLERGY:
Pastor Keith Kraft

BURIAL:
Mobridge City Ceme-
Mobridge, South Dako-



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