



Donald V Nelson

July 5, 1936 - April 18, 2014

Don Nelson passed away in Spokane, WA on April 18, 2014 with his family by his side. Don was born July 5, 1936 in Sprague, WA to Vester and Gladys (Giffing) Nelson. He graduated from Lamont High School in 1954 and played basketball at Washington State University for one year before transferring to Eastern Washington University where he earned a scholarship and a starting spot on the basketball team. He married his high school sweetheart, Sherrill Kelly, in September 1956 and graduated with a teaching degree in 1958. Don spent the early years of his career teaching and coaching in Ephrata, Rosalia, Othello, and Odessa. When Sherrill's father passed away in 1971, the couple moved back to Lamont and took over the family farm where they raised their four children. He retired in 2010. A naturally gifted athlete, Don excelled as a basketball player, but his true talent and passion was coaching young players. He had a unique ability to connect with and bring out the best in the aspiring athletes he coached. Countless local basketball players and teams improved their skills and developed a love of the game under his tutelage. Don continued to be sought after as a private coach and was a frequent face in the stands at area basketball games until the time of his death. Don is survived by his wife of 57 years, daughters Shari and Patti (Joe), sons Gary (Paula) and Keith (Staci), sister Joan, six grandchildren, and one grandson. A funeral service will be held April 24, at 11:30 am, at the First United Methodist Church in St. John. A potluck reception will follow at the church. Private interment will take place at Spokane-Cheney Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions in

Don's honor may be made to the Lamont Community Church, 501 8th Street,
Lamont, WA 99017.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Donald V Nelson*

David & Leslie Swannack - April 25, 2014 at 12:57 AM

DD

“ *So very sad to hear of my cousin Don's passing. I have many fond memories on his farm as a teenager in the 1970's. Bringing the summer wheat harvest with his boys to the Lamont grain elevators where Don's father Vester worked. One time after the harvest, Don took his family and me to the Snake River, and I learned to water ski. Those were some of the best days of my life. He will be missed dearly. Our condolences to the family. The Dietz Family, Darryl, Perla, Derick, Darren, and Kelsey. (OK to contact me via E-mail)*

Darryl Dietz - April 24, 2014 at 07:53 PM

DB

“ *So sorry to hear. Our prayers are with you. Don was good to work with in the FSA office*

Doreen Broeckel-Riedner - April 24, 2014 at 09:41 AM

BH

“ *What a terrible loss to the family and to those of us who loved Don so very much..... Mike and I and our girls will always cherish the memory of this special man*

Bonnie Holliday - April 23, 2014 at 11:54 PM

DE

“ So very sorry to hear of Don's passing. Always enjoyed visiting with him at ball games through the years and having him as a farmer customer and friend. You have my deepest sympathies.

Duane Erickson

Duane Erickson - April 23, 2014 at 12:00 PM