



Donald "Don" Rodewald

July 13, 1959 - October 17, 2021

Donald "Don" Rodewald, 62 year old resident of Little Falls, MN, passed away on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at his home. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, October 29, 2021 at the Camp Ripley Chapel inside the main gates of Camp Ripley with Father David Maciej officiating. A visitation will be held from 4-8 P.M. on Thursday at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN and from 10-11 A.M. on Friday at the Camp Ripley Chapel. Burial will take place at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. Caring for Don and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Little Falls, MN.

Don was born on July 13, 1959 in New Ulm, MN, the son of Marlin H. Rodewald and Mary Ann (Sellner) Rodewald. He married Lois M. Veit in New Ulm, MN, on July 14, 1979 and raised two sons and a daughter. Don graduated New Ulm Senior High School in 1978. On November 10, 1978 he enlisted in the United States Air Force, and attended the basic training and technical school as a Security Police at Lackland A.F.B, TX. During the period of March 1979 to March 1982, he completed a long tour at Spandahlem Air Base in West Germany. He completed his final duty and honorably discharged at March A.F.B., CA, in November 1982 and moved his family back to New Ulm, MN. In February 1983, Don joined the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, Minnesota Army National Guard as a traditional soldier. In January 1984, he was hired as a full-time Battalion Legal Specialist. In January 1987, Don

served as the full-time Battalion Military Personnel Technician, while also attending the Minnesota Military Academy Officer Candidate School. Don was commissioned in September 1988, as a Second Lieutenant Field Artillery Officer and was transferred serving as the full-time Operations Officer with the Minnesota Military Academy at Camp Ripley, MN. In January 1993, he transferred to the 1st Battalion, 194th Infantry in Brainerd, MN. For the next seven years, he served in numerous positions as Training Officer, Officer-in-Charge, Company Commander, and Battalion Executive Officer. In addition to working full-time, he attended night school at St. Cloud State University and graduated with a Bachelors Degree. In October 2000, he transferred back to Camp Ripley and served in numerous full-time positions as Range Control Officer, Construction Engineer Officer, Purchasing and Contracting Division Chief, and Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent of the Consolidated Vehicle Maintenance Activity. From February 2009 through March 2010, while serving as Commander of the 1903rd Senior Acquisition Team, he deployed his team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving in the Chief of Iraq Contracting Operations Officer in the Headquarters Joint Contracting Command-Iraq. He flawlessly planned and executed "Money as a Weapon System" strategy in direct support of three Combat Divisions, earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. In July 2015, Don was promoted to rank of Colonel and transferred to the United States Army Reserve Control Group. In October, 2018, he was transferred to the Army United States Retired List. He was credited with serving 39 years, 11 months, and 4 days of military service to his country. Don enjoyed motorcycle riding with his wife Lois and spending time with his eight grandchildren. He also enjoyed his hobby of auto body repair. He is a life-time member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Don is survived by his wife, Lois of 42 years; two sons, Eric (Pamela) Rodewald of Courtland, MN, Kyle (Brianna) Rodewald of Little Falls, MN; daughter, Raina (Mitchell) Vetsch of Albany, MN; siblings, Ronald (Joyce)

Rodewald of New Ulm, MN, Gary Rodewald of New Ulm, MN, Keith (Gina) Rodewald of Lakeville, MN, Pam (Joe) Simon of Redwood Falls, MN and Janell (Glenn) Brown of Rogers, MN and grandchildren, Mallory Rodewald, Ashlyn Rodewald, Autumn Rodewald, Natalie Rodewald, Elena Rodewald, Aubree Vetsch, Lilly Ann Vetsch, and Rilley Vetsch.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Marlin and Mary Ann Rodewald.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Visitation

OCT **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Camp Ripley Chapel
15000 Highway #115
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173
(320) 616-2708

Funeral Service

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Camp Ripley Chapel
15000 Highway #115
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173
(320) 616-2708

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - October 28, 2021 at 10:16 AM

NR

“ *He was the best and he treated me like more than a granddaughter. He treated me like an actual daughter and it's sad to hear that he died, having your support made me feel better while cherishing the memory of him. It is so sad to have someone amazing like Grandpa go away so soon. It is also so nice to have people like you to help me out. Thanks in advance. --Natalie Rodewald*

Natalie Rodewald - April 08, 2024 at 10:45 AM



“ *Donald "Don" Rodewald*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

SF

“ *This is former SFC George Jonathan Fliegelman IV. I knew Colonel Donald Rodewald for over 10 years and served under him for most that time. Not only was he a great Officer I considered him as a mentor. This is truly a great loss.*

SFC George J Fliegelman - October 29, 2021 at 05:30 AM

LH

“ *Lois and Family, My thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family at the loss of Don, Rode as we liked/loved to call him at the 1-194th in Brainerd. When Don (Ops Off) and myself (Ops NCO) came together as the 194 full-time operations team in 1993 I immediately knew we were a "Great" team. The 2 plus years we spent together in these roles showed myself and all the full-time soldiers at the 194 what a person Don was no matter the situation! He always got the mission done and took great care of all the soldiers.*

It was a great pleasure to serve with him!!!!

Le Hartness / Baxter

Hq, 1-194 Pictured L/R: Bob M., Bruce R., Brian W., Mark K., Bill K., Le, Steve J., Dale E., Don., Steve A. Kevin S. not pictured



LeMoyne Ray Hartness - October 28, 2021 at 04:55 PM

CS

“ *Don was my manager at the Country Kitchen in New Ulm many years ago. We hit it off right away. Over the years, I occasionally ran into Don at Camp Ripley and in Little Falls and truly enjoyed seeing him (and Lois). My sincere condolences on Don's passing both to his immediate family and to his siblings as well.*

Curtis Smith - October 28, 2021 at 07:50 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" Rodewald.*



October 27, 2021 at 08:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" Rodewald.*



October 27, 2021 at 03:05 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Donald. May he rest in peace. Thank you for his outstanding military service as well.*

Kathy Marshik - October 27, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" Rodewald.*



October 26, 2021 at 05:07 PM

DK

“ Our deepest condolences to Lois and her family. We are grateful for the dedicated service that Don provided to our country.
Dean Kastner, Palm Bay, FL

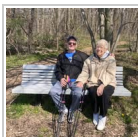
Dean Kastner - October 26, 2021 at 08:21 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" Rodewald.



October 25, 2021 at 05:41 PM



“ deepest sympathy to the Rodewald family, thoughts and prayers are with you. I didn't know Don but we had the same grandmother Kate Preisinger.

H. Gruber, Milwaukee, WI.

Howie Gruber - October 25, 2021 at 05:39 PM

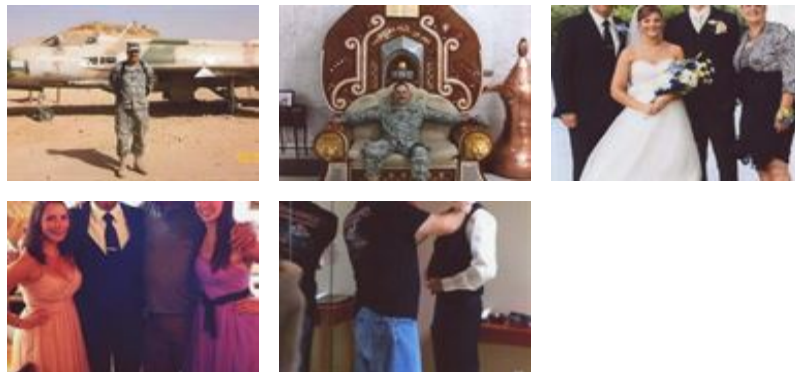
RZ

*So sorry for your loss. In my prayers .
Ruth Zender*

Ruth Zender - October 25, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ 27 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieux Funeral Homes - October 25, 2021 at 03:55 PM

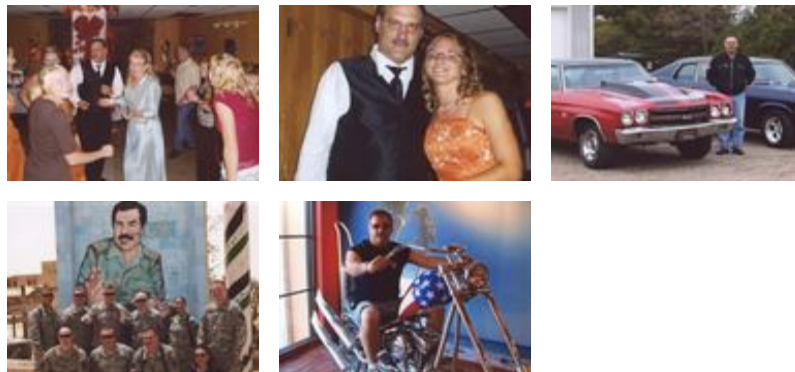
JD

“ *COL Rodewald was a caring and supportive leader in the Minnesota National Guard. I had the pleasure of serving our country with him when we deployed to Iraq and while serving here at home. He was a great mentor for me and many others. He loved his family and this country. My condolences to the Rodewald family. -James Douglas*

James Douglas - October 25, 2021 at 02:40 PM



“ 18 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieux Funeral Homes - October 25, 2021 at 02:14 PM

BB

“ Raina & Lois, my heart goes out to you! Growing up spending so much time together, with you all & in your home, I remember how much Don loved you both so much!! Many hugs being sent to you.

Belynda Bue - October 25, 2021 at 01:46 PM

JO

“ Jane Olson lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Jane Olson - October 25, 2021 at 11:42 AM

GH

“ Lois and Family, so sorry for your loss, will keep you in our prayers. 🙏🙏 Gloria & Jerry Hanfler



Gloria Hanfler - October 24, 2021 at 08:53 PM

RB

“ Rick And Sue Brausen lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Rick and Sue Brausen - October 23, 2021 at 08:55 AM

JC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Don was my Boss at Camp Ripley. Great guy and fun to work for. He will be missed.

Jim Cluka - October 22, 2021 at 05:22 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Don Rodewald



Jannell Rodewald Brown - October 22, 2021 at 09:57 AM

JW

“ Walking to school and riding our motorcycles. Ron and Me on our Yamaha and Don on His Honda.



joel winter - October 21, 2021 at 05:42 PM

JW

“ Jan Weinhandl lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Jan Weinhandl - October 21, 2021 at 05:40 PM

DL

“ Our hearts, thoughts & prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. We pray that you find strength in the memories & love that surround you & you feel God's love all around each & everyone of you- 🙏! Love, Dawn & Brad Laager

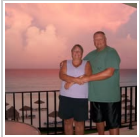


Dawn & Brad Laager - October 21, 2021 at 05:29 PM

YZ

Hugs and prayers for the family. So sorry for your loss. He will be missed by many.

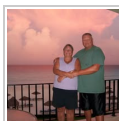
yvonne zappa - October 21, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ Sharon Radl lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Sharon Radl - October 21, 2021 at 03:39 PM



We send our heartfelt sympathy to the entire family. A great guy, father, grandpa,, husband is a great loss. Bless you dear friends.

Sharon Radl - October 21, 2021 at 03:40 PM

JB

“ 2 files added to the album Don Rodewald



Jannell Rodewald Brown - October 21, 2021 at 12:01 PM

LL

“ Lois and family...Lyle and I have no words to express how sorry we are for you. Our hearts are so heavy. Lyle always thought so much of Don as they served together in New Ulm and at Camp Ripley. And we have both enjoyed so much our conversations at breakfast and coffee times meeting at Coborns and other places we seem to run into each other. You are in our prayers every morning. Hugs from both of us to you.

Lyle and Connie Lalim - October 21, 2021 at 09:01 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jannell Rodewald Brown - October 21, 2021 at 08:54 AM

KH

“ So sorry to hear of your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Ben and Krisi Hoffmann

Krisi Hoffmann - October 20, 2021 at 09:39 PM

JS

“ Keith and I send thoughts and prayers for you all. May God be with you at this time of loss

Jan Sams - October 20, 2021 at 06:14 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" Rodewald.



October 20, 2021 at 03:22 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Don Rodewald



Jannell Rodewald Brown - October 20, 2021 at 01:30 PM

JB

“ Lois, we are so very sorry for your loss! We are sending our prayers and love to you and your family. 🥹🥹🙏❤️❤�

Jim and Jeanette (Nettie) Balbach - October 20, 2021 at 01:17 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jannell Rodewald Brown - October 20, 2021 at 12:05 PM

JB

“ 7 files added to the album Don Rodewald



Jannell Ann Brown - October 20, 2021 at 11:56 AM

DS

“ Diane Stolt lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Diane Stolt - October 20, 2021 at 11:35 AM

JB

“ Jannell Rodewald Brown lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Jannell Rodewald Brown - October 20, 2021 at 10:00 AM

MG

“ Our condolences to the entire family. Don was a stand-up guy with a huge love of Harley Davidson's, Ford Mustangs, his country-but most of all his family. You are in our thoughts and prayers moving forward.

Jeff & Melissa Gerads

Melissa Gerads - October 20, 2021 at 09:59 AM

CS

“ Sorry for your loss, hold all of your special memories close to your hearts. God Bless you all in this difficult time.
Chuck and Faye Santala



Chuck and Faye Santala - October 20, 2021 at 09:31 AM

JS

“ John & Janell Staab lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



John & Janell Staab - October 20, 2021 at 09:30 AM

JO

“ Jane Olson lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Jane Olson - October 20, 2021 at 09:15 AM

TD

“ Tammy And Aron Dalen lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Tammy and Aron Dalen - October 20, 2021 at 08:39 AM

KB

“ Kevin & Janet Burggraff lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Kevin & Janet Burggraff - October 20, 2021 at 01:24 AM

FW

“ Faye & Jerry Waltman lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Faye & Jerry Waltman - October 19, 2021 at 10:33 PM

PS

“ Raina Bug! You were your daddy's sweetheart, the days that he picked you up or dropped you off at my house for daycare when you were a TINY BUG baby, it showed in his eyes! Be comforted by the great memories of your dad through all your years, he loved you so!! My heart aches for you...with love, Paula

Paula Schultz - October 19, 2021 at 09:54 PM

PS

“ Eric and Kyle, Your dad was so proud of you two, his sons! Keep that in the fore front of your minds during this most difficult time! The Doug Schultz Family

Paula Schultz - October 19, 2021 at 09:49 PM

PS

“ Lois, May you know that you our being prayed for! With deep sadness, the news hit us hard...you were the love of his life, we want to wrap you in a tight hug! In any way we can be, we are there for you! Our sincere sympathies! The Doug Schultz Family

Paula Schultz - October 19, 2021 at 09:46 PM

MS

“ Mark & Pam Savage lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Rodewald



Mark & Pam Savage - October 19, 2021 at 07:07 PM

GF

“ Our sympathy sorry to hear about Don he was a great person our condolences to Lois and family



Gary & Suekye Fafara - October 19, 2021 at 05:56 PM

BJ

“ Our deepest sympathies Lois and family! We couldn't have asked for nicer neighbors. I will miss my chats with Don in the back yard, he was a great guy! We will always be around if you need anything, hugs!

Becky & Scott Jelinski, Tyler & Trevor

Becky Jelinski - October 19, 2021 at 03:12 PM

WW

“ We are so sorry Lois and Family, our Sympathy! 🙏🙏



Wendy Waltman - October 19, 2021 at 02:31 PM

MG

“ Lois and family, we are thinking of you all and are so very sorry for your loss. Howie & MB

Mary Beth Grams - October 19, 2021 at 01:24 PM

MH

“ *One of the kindest men we have ever had the pleasure to know. Don was like a second dad to our kids while they were growing up - and we will miss him so much. Much love to all of you - our hearts are shattered!*

Mary Hanson - October 19, 2021 at 11:52 AM