



Donald E. Theobald

March 3, 1943 - September 6, 2021

Donald E. Theobald, 78, of East Peoria, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 6, 2021, surrounded by his family at his home. He was born on March 3, 1943, in Peoria, to Ralph and Verla (Shew) Theobald. He married Bonnie Jo Cornwell on May 2, 1965, in East Peoria; she survives.

He is also survived by his son, Darin E. Theobald of Morton; his sister, Norma Jones of Peoria; several nieces and nephews; and his granddog, Duke.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, James.

Don graduated from EPCHS Class of 1961 and served in the Army from 1964-1967. He was known as "Mr. Chevrolet," and enjoyed his career as Sales Manager for Grimm Chevrolet for 27 years.

He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in East Peoria, Slow Pokes Car Club, and the American Legion Post #2.

Don loved collecting and restoring Chevys. He and Bonnie enjoyed traveling with the Slow Pokes Car Club throughout the country.

Visitation will be from 5-7 PM on Friday, September 10, 2021, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. Since Don was a car enthusiast, the family invites you to drive your classic car to the visitation. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in East Peoria, with visitation a half-hour prior to the service. Burial, with military rites provided by The American Legion Post 2, will follow at Glendale Memorial Gardens in Pekin.

Memorials may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation or St. Peter's

Lutheran Church in East Peoria. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Glendale Memorial Gardens

18119 Illinois Route 9
Pekin, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 10. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611

Visitation

SEP 11. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
200 E. Cole Street
East Peoria, IL

Funeral Service

SEP 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
200 E. Cole Street
East Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald E. Theobald



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 10, 2021 at 07:35 PM



“ Donald E. Theobald

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM

BD

“ *From An Old Soldier's Prayer:*

*I have fought when others feared to serve.
I have gone where others failed to go.
I've lost friends in war and strife,
Who valued Duty more than love of life.*

*Don was a proud member of the United States Army
and an honored member of the American Legion Post 2.
He had been with the Legion for over 16 years.
He will always be remembered as "one of us."*

*For God and Country
Bill Davies
Commander Post 2*

Bill Davies - September 12, 2021 at 10:59 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family
of Donald E. Theobald.*



September 11, 2021 at 06:35 PM

BH

“ *Corliss and I are So sorry to hear of Don's passing. Our best wishes
are sent to Bonnie and his family.*

Barry Van Hook - September 11, 2021 at 04:02 PM

JF

“ Bonnie and Darin, we were so sorry to learn of Don's passing. Our sincere condolences. His cheerful smile and demeanor certainly made the world a better place.
Bev and John Ferguson

John Ferguson - September 11, 2021 at 02:13 PM

JH

“ Dear Bonnie and Darin and all the family. I am so sorry to hear of the passing of my dear friend and associate for many years at Bob Grimm Chevrolet. Don has taught me many valuable lessons as we worked together in sales and management. His wonderful friendly, consistent, fun, honest, personality affected everyone that came into contact. Everyone that he touched felt that he was their Best friend. Don let me say I will never forget you. and I Love you Brother. Jim Hohulin

Jim Hohulin - September 11, 2021 at 09:27 AM



“ 24 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - September 10, 2021 at 01:51 PM

LT

“ I met my Uncle Don when I was 5 years old. That was 58 years ago, and he made such an impression that I still remember the details of that visit. He was just back from serving in Japan and he was all smiles and stories. My sister Susan and I adored him from the start, and we continued to adore him all our lives. And we knew that he loved us.

A year before we met, he sent his four nieces stuffed animals and kimonos and little wooden shoes with tiny bells. I don't have much from my childhood anymore, but I still have these things and I treasure them. I also treasure all the memories of many family gatherings with homemade ice cream, screaming kids, and lots of laughter. Don was an important part of that.

I'm grateful to have had such an extraordinary person in my life for so many years. He was loved by all who knew him. Sending much love to Bonnie and Darin. I am there in spirit, even if I am far away in miles. Xoxo

Lisa Theobald - September 09, 2021 at 07:17 PM

KV

“ My sincere condolences to Bonnie and Darin at this difficult time. I worked for Don and I would have to say he was the best boss I have ever had. I too shall miss this wonderful man. He was the best of the best and I fill very lucky to have had him in my life. RIP Don. Happy Easter.



Kathy VanHorn - September 08, 2021 at 06:11 PM

JH

Bonnie, We are so sorry to hear of Don's passing! Live and prayers to you and Darin.

Janie & Ken Hulett - September 09, 2021 at 08:36 PM

BW

“ I will miss him so very much , I cared for don
for a couple months before he left us I
enjoyed every moment with him
Our weekly chats and laughs
My condolences to Bonnie ❤️ So very glad I
met Donald and Bonnie



Breanna Williams - September 08, 2021 at 03:52 PM

TK

No better friend to of had the most sincere and honest person I ever
met I will never forget all the great times we had together our thoughts
and prayers are with you Bonnie and Darin Tim and Carolu

Tim and Carolu Kizer - September 08, 2021 at 05:39 PM

MS

One of the really good guys. Always a friendly smile and an
encouraging way. May his family find comfort in the positive effect he
had on so many.

Marvin Spencer

Marvin Spencer - September 12, 2021 at 09:45 AM

BR

My class of '61 buddy, you knew way before most of us did, how to
really be a friend. Thanks for always welcoming me throughout the
years since school. I will always remember you with a smile!

Bob Riddle

Bob Riddle - September 12, 2021 at 08:37 PM