



Donald Ray "Don" Russell

July 17, 1926 - April 16, 2019

Donald Ray ("Don") Russell
Pawleys Island

Don Russell, 92, died April 16, 2019, at home. He was born July 17, 1926, in Portsmouth, Ohio, to the late Nannie Mae "Nan" (nee Richardson) and James Taylor "J.T." Russell. Don grew up in Lexington, Kentucky. After graduating from Henry Clay High in 1944, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served aboard the U.S.S. Iowa in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he returned to Lexington and received a B.S. in mining engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1950. He was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and served as its president. In 1949 he married his Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, Mary Elizabeth ("Liz") Montague. Liz died in August 2018. Don is survived by their daughter, Patricia Lee Russell, and husband Marc Camin, San Diego; sons Stephen Montague Russell and wife Jayne, Pawleys Island; Don Taylor Russell and wife Catherine, Charlotte; and David Foster Russell and wife Robin, Myrtle Beach; grandchildren Carlin, Stephen, Temperance, Foster, Grainger, and Miranda; and his sister Lee Korn and husband Henry "Hank," Sarasota. His brother Cordell Russell died in 2007.

A career in the paper and packaging industry that spanned 40 years took Don and his family to St. Louis; Cleveland; Cincinnati; Westport, Conn.; Minneapolis; Columbus; Middletown, Ohio; and Hartsville. Don and Liz retired

to Pawleys Island in 1988.

Don joined Sonoco Products Co. in Hartsville as vice president, paper division, in 1971. He went on to become senior vice president, corporate development, and served on the board of directors for over ten years. Don also served on the board of directors for Dopaco Inc. Prior to joining Sonoco, Don was vice president and general manager of Diamond National Corporation, and president and general manager of Raymond Bag Co.

After retiring from Sonoco, Don continued to pursue business interests. He formed Rimco International, a consulting group assisting companies with mergers and acquisitions. He was also the founder of Inrtek, a corporation that pioneered efforts in the field of injury reduction in the industrial workplace.

Wherever his career took him, Don was active in professional, civic, and philanthropic endeavors. Committed to creating new opportunities for innovative businesses, Don served as trustee and chair of the Technical Advisory Board of the South Carolina Research Authority. As chair of the Recycled Paperboard Division of the American Paper Institute (API), Don was an early advocate of the benefits of recycling to the economy. He later served as president of the API. Don was a member of the board of trustees of the Middletown Civic Association, a director of the Middletown Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors for Junior Achievement, Middletown, and a member of the Rotary Club. Don was also a proud Kentucky Colonel, and he established the Donald R. Russell Scholarship for mining engineering students at the University of Kentucky. He also served on the vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Middletown.

For all his other interests and activities, Don's greatest passion was tennis. In his post-retirement years, he played in countless tournaments, locally, throughout the southeast and even traveling to tournaments as far away as

California. In the United States Tennis Association rankings for South Carolina, Don achieved the ranks of number two in doubles in the 75 and above age group, and number two in singles in the 80 and above age group.

Don's intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, and passion for life were never-ending. He was an avid student of history, he and Liz were always first on the dance floor to jitterbug, and they loved to entertain, making everyone feel welcome in their home. Don was a devoted husband and father, a mentor to many, and a friend to all.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 23, at the Celebration Center, Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel in Murrells Inlet.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the South Carolina Research Authority: <https://www.scra.org/get-involved/donations/>

Sign an online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel in Murrells Inlet, is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Annie - April 23, 2019 at 07:08 PM

EM

“ In reading Don's amazing obit I remember Boz & I visited their homes in all the places they lived, except St. Louis. So many happy memories. I miss them both. Esther

esther montague - April 23, 2019 at 06:05 PM

BQ

“ We, the members of the South Carolina Research Authority family, were deeply saddened to learn of Don Russell's passing. Don played an essential role in SCRA's growth by serving as Chairman of the Technical Advisory Board for nine years. We are forever in his debt for his service and offer his family our deepest sympathy. Sincerely, Bob Quinn, Executive Director, SCRA

Bob Quinn - April 23, 2019 at 10:53 AM

NG

“ My deepest sympathies to all my cousins. We had a great childhood at Gam and Dadaw s. My fondest memories of Don are him always smiling and sleeping. Glad he and Aunt Lib are angels. Love to all of you. Nancy

Nancy Greer - April 22, 2019 at 07:39 PM

MF

“ *Martha and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Ray "Don" Russell.*



Martha and family - April 22, 2019 at 06:38 PM

EF

“ *My life changed forever when I met Don Russell. We had an absolutely amazing 30-year career together from the time he recruited me to an assignment in 1974 with Sonoco's folding carton division that eventually provided me the opportunity to accomplish my dream and acquire my own business which formed the foundation for my life today. The memories and stories with Don are far too numerous to recite. Don was a great man, highly intelligent, perceptive with unwavering integrity and impeccable judgement. Over the years our friendship grew into a very unique relationship that lasted until his passing. Don's friendly smile, always welcoming style and sincerity will be truly missed but the memories will live forever. My life would never had been what it is today had it not been for my dear friend, Don Russell. Ed Fitts*

Ed Fitts - April 22, 2019 at 05:16 PM

LF

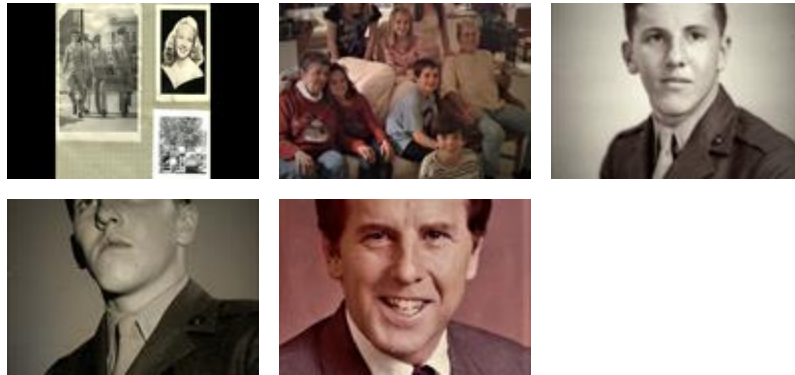
“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Don (and Liz) Russell. I went to elementary school with David and my father Ed Fitts and Don were colleagues and good friends. Although most of my memories of Don were of experiences he and my father shared, I felt as though I knew him just as well from the many conversations I had with my father about his beloved friend and mentor. He will be missed by many.*

*With warm regard and sincere sympathy,
Laura Fitts*

Laura L. Fitts - April 22, 2019 at 02:20 PM

SR

“ *7 files added to the album Memories Album*



Stephen I Russell - April 21, 2019 at 08:49 PM

EF

“ *Esther and Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Donald Ray "Don" Russell.*



Esther and Family - April 20, 2019 at 03:03 PM