



## Donald Kleinow

November 3, 1947 - November 21, 2010

ADRIAN – Donald P. Kleinow, 63, of Adrian, who was born November 3, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan, entered into eternal rest on November 21, 2010, after battling cancer.

Don graduated from Denby High School in Detroit and received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Industrial Arts from Western Michigan University.

He was employed as a teacher by Hudson High School for many years before starting his 28 year employment with Merillat Industries, in Adrian, as a Master Trade Show Technician. Don was very well known and respected for his woodworking/carpentry talent, doing jobs for many local residents over the years. He served in the US Army from 1969 to 1971, and then served in the Army National Guard, retiring in November 2007. Not only was he known for his woodworking abilities and as a Sergeant First Class (E7), he was Siena Heights' women's head cross country coach since 1984, and assistant track and field coach, leading his teams to multiple national championship appearances. Don recently was named Cross Country "Coach of the Year 2010" and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in the fall of 2011.

Among these outstanding accomplishments, Don was most proud of his nine children. Surviving are four sons, Donald Kleinow II, Christopher (Stacey) Kleinow, Jonathon (Cynthia Tapia) Kleinow and Levi Kleinow; four daughters,

Janna (Alex) Rueda, Mandie Kleinow, Katelyn (Eric) Tumara, Hannah Kleinow. Also surviving are the mother of his nine children, Sharon (Mayo) Kleinow, his siblings, Nancy Chatterson, Mary (Chris) Krzyskowski, Kenway (Jerri) Torok, Norman Torok, and Gene (Pat) Torok, and eight grandchildren.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Anne (Kenway) Kleinow, and his son, David Kleinow.

The memorial service honoring Don's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 27, 2010 at the Tecumseh Church of the Nazarene with Rev. Gary Miller officiating. Military honors will be conducted by the Adrian National Guard, Company B 156 Signal Battalion. Visitation will be held at Wagley Funeral Home on Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. Condolences may be sent to [www.wagleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.wagleyfuneralhome.com). In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Siena Heights University to establish an athletic scholarship in memory of Don. Envelopes are available at Wagley Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tecumseh Church of the Nazarene  
1001 N. Union Street  
Tecumseh, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Kleinow*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Dear Don,*

*I will always remember you as a happy, generous man who loved his family so very much. You were my brother in-law, but more like a brother. In this life, you were always doing for others. You were kind, a beautiful soul spirit. You must be so very joyful in heaven. No doubt the angels threw a big welcome home party for you upon your arrival there! You did a great job in this life dear brother. Peace be with you forever more. Love you and thank you very much! God bless you and keep you! Tammy###imported-begin###Tammy Stone###imported-end###*

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December 01, 2010 at 07:48 PM



“ *Don and family-*

*I'm so sorry to hear about your dad. May God be with you in this sad time and know that you are thought of with smiles.*

*Bless you,*

*Carrie Sue###imported-begin###Carrie Sue (Eberhard)*

*Cempura###imported-end###*

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November 27, 2010 at 09:15 AM



“ It was my good fortune to have known and worked with Don Kleinow at Merillat. Don truly loved his family and was the kind of person you admired for his superior craftsmanship, servicing our country for years plus his passion for coaching at Siena. He was a very special and dedicated individual who always gave his very best at everything he did.##imported-begin##Larry Wilson##imported-end##

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November 26, 2010 at 11:34 PM



“ We are so very sorry to hear about your father. He was a great man and great father. We loved working with him and know how talented he was in his construction work. He will be sadly missed by all.##imported-begin##Dennis and Jill Hartley##imported-end##

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November 25, 2010 at 07:58 PM



“ May the precious memories you hold in your hear help sooth your soul at this difficult time. I was so saddened to hear of your great loss. He was a wonderful coach to me. Please know that I care and you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*With deepest sympathy*

*Amanda M. Porter*

*Class of 2004##imported-begin##Amanda M. Porter##imported-end##*

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November 24, 2010 at 06:01 PM



“ It was with much sadness we heard of Don's passing. We had the privilege to meet and get to know Don in 2009. He was a dedicated, hard worker with so much energy. Don was blessed with a wonderful family-as they were with him!

Our prayers go out to Don's family. We hope great memories will help get you through the holidays. Your dad's love and spirit will always be with you.##imported-begin##Bob & Kathie Kennedy##imported-end##

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November 24, 2010 at 03:03 PM



“ Don was like a father to me, just as Sharon & you children have always been a extension of my life. Everyone of you kids were lucky enough to have such a father, mentor & just all around great man in your lives. I am so proud of what amazing adults you all have become. And I know your Dad was too. Just remember you have us to lean on, as through our lives we have always done. Love you all and I will greatly miss seeing your dad running down the road, as he wave to me each and every time. I thank you all for letting me see him last week, I am glad I was able to say goodbye to him. I know he is with David now, and your brother was very happy to greet him at Heaven's gate. We all my love Jenny##imported-begin##Jennifer (Hepker) Trevino##imported-end##

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November 23, 2010 at 07:22 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Kleinow family. I had the pleasure of working with Don at Merillat. His energy was boundless and his willingness to help you was one of his best attributes. He valued his family, his co-workers and his student athletes. Don also gave me a great many woodworking tips I still use today and for which I am grateful. I know he is at peace and he will be terribly missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.##imported-begin##John Adams##imported-end##

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November 23, 2010 at 11:31 AM



“ To the Family of SFC Don Kleinow; I am so sorry to hear of his passing, he will be greatly missed. SFC Kleinow was my Platoon Sergeant while I was a member of B Co 156. He was such an inspiration. He had high standards and demanded they were met, but did it in a way that was not threatening or demeaning. He was Truly a Professional Soldier, a Mentor. I can not attend the services, as I am in Afghanistan; however please know that I will be thinking of him as well as his family this Saturday. It was my privilege to know him.

Respectfully, 1LT Herman Brey##imported-begin##1LT Herman Brey##imported-end##

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November 23, 2010 at 03:58 AM



“ Don was my niece Lyndsay's coach at Sienna Heights. Lyndsay spoke of her respect and admiration for coach. She ran her race at Nationals to honor him and all the hard work that he put into the team. I had the opportunity to meet Don, he was very gracious and let me know how proud he was of Lyndsay and not just with her running, but that she was a wonderful person. He inspired and influenced so many. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.##imported-begin##Rhonda Steffes##imported-end##

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November 22, 2010 at 09:40 PM



“ My condolences on your loss. Don was a caring, compassionate, and loving Father, Teacher, Coach, and Freind. A highly skilled craftsman who always had time to help others. A solider dedicated to serving his country with honor and pride.

Eventhough Don was always a WMU Bronco he also bleed blue and gold for the Saints of Siena Heights. His legacy is all the wonderful women's cross country and track athletes that he trained. While we have lost a SHU Saint, Heaven has gained a SAINT. He will be missed by all those who knew him.##imported-begin##Gerry Schlemer ##imported-end##

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November 22, 2010 at 05:52 PM



“ I will always remember Don saying, "I eat to live, I don't live to eat." A simple quote but it proves that everything Don did, he did it with true passion in his heart and even the necessities for survival were secondary when he was participating in his passions. Such as spending time with his children and grandchildren, serving in the National Guard and helping his athletes improve their skills. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Don will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Miranda (Reid) Laskowski##imported-end##

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November 22, 2010 at 01:06 PM



“ I was so sad to hear that Coach Kleinow had passed away. God did not want to see him suffer any longer. May God comfort the Kleinow family.##imported-begin##Cammie Anderson##imported-end##

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November 22, 2010 at 01:06 PM



“ Don was a wonderful person who will be missed my many. I will always remember him as a hard working coach and friend, but primarily a father. He was always working extra hard to make sure his family was taken care of. He was truly a wonderful man! My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time!##imported-begin##Karen Stoick (McMillen)##imported-end##

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November 22, 2010 at 12:43 PM