



Donald Arthur Kleinsmith

February 2, 1934 - February 17, 2025

Don Kleinsmith of Adrian passed on at his home on February 9, 2025, at the age of 91.

Don was born in Monroe, Michigan on February 2, 1934. He graduated from Monroe High School in 1952, and went on to study at Eastern Michigan University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Don taught in Anaheim, California, before returning to Michigan to work as Director of Student Activities at Eastern Michigan. It was at Eastern that Don met Louise Starr. Don and Louise married on January 27, 1968. They enjoyed 57 happy years of marriage and raised two children.

In 1970, Don began working at Adrian College, where he eventually became a professor of English and Business Communications. In his 45 years of teaching, Don helped and inspired countless students through his sincere care for them and his fun sense of humor. Don is in the Adrian College Faculty Hall of Fame, and the college's writing center is named after him.

Don was an active member of the Christian Science Church in Adrian, where he served in many positions, out of his love for God and his neighbor. His sincere kindness and interest in the lives of others always motivated him in reaching out to help and to encourage others.

Don will be missed by his loving wife Louise, children Brian (Kitty Shao) Kleinsmith and Heidi (Robert) Salter, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings.

A memorial service for Don will be held at Wagley Funeral Home on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10:00.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Don and Louise Kleinsmith Scholarship at Adrian College or to the Lenawee Humane Society. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 8. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Memorial Service

MAR 8. 11:30 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

DS

“ Don was my journalism instructor in the fall of 1969, and the qualities I saw then never changed over the years. Always thoughtful of others, kind, compassionate, caring, and genuine. He didn't just teach for the classroom, but also how to look for the best in everyone we met and whose paths crossed ours. He touched countless lives and changed them for the better. I'm proud to have known Don as both a mentor and a friend..

Doug Spade - March 07, 2025 at 08:58 PM

LH

“ Uncle Don was an amazing man! Husband, brother, father, grandfather, uncle, teacher, Friend. So many wonderful memories growing up with Uncle Don, Aunt Louise, Brian and Heidi. As much mischief as we 12 cousins got into, Uncle Don never lost his temper. His love for people and animals will remain in my heart. Thank you Uncle Don

Laura Kleinsmith Hutchison - March 01, 2025 at 06:47 AM

BR

“ Don Kleinsmith was my advisor and teacher as I worked for my BA in English/Journalism in the 1970's. He was also the advisor for the College World student newspaper at the same time I was Editor-in-Chief in 1973. I just learned of his passing and am sending my deepest sympathy to Jean and family!



Becky Limbird Rohre - February 21, 2025 at 10:51 PM

HB

Don came into the bank where I worked years ago. Always had something kind to say and I looked forward to our chats at every visit. Such a wonderful human being. You will be missed, Don.

Heidi Baker - March 01, 2025 at 10:45 AM

EF

“ *Don holds a special place in my heart!! Always so thoughtful and kind. He will be missed by many!!! Rest in peace my brother in Christ!!!*

Elizabeth Freshcorn - February 19, 2025 at 09:55 PM

AO

“ *I have such fond memories of him. I always appreciated how much he truly cared for his students at Adrian College.*

Allison Peregord Oakes - February 18, 2025 at 05:48 PM

KH

“ *He was one of my professors 1987-88, so patient and kind. May he RIP!*

Khristine Henson-Jones - February 17, 2025 at 05:33 PM

AC

“ *So very sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was one of the best professors I've ever had and I still use his business communications practices today. I was also proud to call him a fraternity brother in Theta Chi.*

Alan Copeland - February 17, 2025 at 03:52 PM

MM

“ Don showed our 1971-72 journalism class front pages of major U.S. newspapers to illustrate variation in headline title language or placement of breaking stories. That stuck with me after all these years along with his respect for others. What an asset to Adrian College & us kids who are now in our 70s.

Mike Mills - February 17, 2025 at 02:24 PM

JS

Such a fine gentleman. Humble and kind.

Joy Smith - February 17, 2025 at 08:27 PM

CP

Rest in Peace, dear cousin. You were always so kind and respectful of others. You were named after my dad and he was always so proud of you.

Cheryl (Soncrant) Pouliot - February 18, 2025 at 01:45 PM

KD

*It's difficult to overstate the impact Don has had on so many people, myself included. From writing a five paragraph letter to an impactful resume. He epitomized a thoughtful loving friend, neighbor, mentor and spiritual example. Not a mean bone in him. I can honestly say I never met another person like Don Kleinsmith.
RIP*

Keith Dersham - February 24, 2025 at 10:28 AM

CK

Don was my husband's brother. He was there for me and my 3 sons when my husband Ed was killed 40 years ago. He was there for every my sons were involved in. They were 16 /18/and 19 when they lost their Dad. Throughout the years Don kept in touch with me. Checked in the boys too. Such love care and supports was always there from.him. He will be so missed but get comfort knowing he and his younger brother are together again. God bless this loving caring man.

Carolyn Kleinsmith - March 10, 2025 at 09:01 PM