



Donald J Cier

August 31, 1926 - December 20, 2013

Don Cier passed away December 20th, 2013, in St. George, Utah. Don was born August 31, 1926, the only son of John and Gladys Pharo Cier, in Wausau, Wisconsin. He grew up on a dairy farm near Mauston, WI and attended a one-room grade school. Upon graduating from Mauston High School in 1944, he enlisted in the Navy. Don was an Electrician's Mate on the USS Warren, which landed troops during the Okinawa campaign, took the first occupation troops to Tokyo, and ferried service personnel home from Pacific bases. Don then served in the US Naval Reserve from 1946 to 1951.

Don received a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Wisconsin in 1951. While employed by Syro Steel Company in Youngstown, Ohio, he met Mary Ellen Beil; they were married in 1961. The family moved to Salt Lake City in 1966 when Don was selected to run the newly-created Western Division of Syro in Centerville, Utah. Retiring as Vice President in 1993, he worked as an industry consultant, actively marketing and overseeing large installations of underground steel structures until the age of 83. Don moved to St. George in 2004 and made many good friends in the SunRiver community.

Don was a warm, generous and humble man. He was always active in both business and charitable groups wherever he lived, and he had a special place in his heart for the homeless and less fortunate. In Salt Lake, especially during the holidays, he would bring boxes of food to the homeless and hand out

dollar coins and gift certificates to people in need. He was a member of the Salt Lake Rotary; a favorite memory of his was taking a Rotarian-donated school bus loaded with clothing and toys down to an orphanage in Mexico.

As a father, Don made many sacrifices to support and care for his children. He made sure they attended Catholic grade school and took them on trips all over the United States, encouraging questions and giving thought-provoking answers. He continued to look after their individual needs throughout his life.

Don also served on the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and as a board member of the Utah Manufacturers Association and the Utah Safety Council. Don was a member of numerous trade associations and engineering societies, a 27-year member of the Salt Lake Country Club and a charter member and officer of the SunRiver Post 142 of the American Legion. He was proud to have served his country in World War II, though like most of his generation, considered that sacrifice just part of being an American.

Don and Mary Ellen divorced after 36 years, but remained friends. He is survived by her and their four children: Andy (Lynn Ivers), Park City; Elizabeth (Gary Springer), New York; Ted (Katie Coffey), Denver; Jeff (Deborah Haverfield), Denver. Grandchildren: Andrew, Grace and Kate, Park City; Isabel and Oliver, Denver.

A celebration of Don's life will be scheduled later. Friends and family are invited to share condolences at www.SereniCareofStGeorge.com. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Andy Cier - April 07, 2014 at 12:33 AM

BD

“ We met Don twice with his mother. The comments on Dons good character reflect what we saw over the years in Gladys-like mother ,like son,seems so well said here. We know good memories nourish us. So happy you all have many. Love Bob & Carol Deasy

Bob Deasy - January 07, 2014 at 02:04 PM

AC

Thank you for your very kind words!

Andy Cier - January 17, 2014 at 02:44 AM

PM

“ Dear Andy, Bets, Ted, Jeff, & Mary Ellen - I remember Don fondly, as he was one of those surrogate dads to friends of his kids. I can't count how many times he put up with our silly antics as kids. Your lovely tribute to him in his obit is how I also remember him - asking thought provoking questions as he was even shuttling us to and from social visits (your house). He probably thought we were paying no attention, but I know he caused me to ponder (as deeply as a kid can) more than a few times. I remember he actually had a sense of humor too. I have nothing but profound respect and warm affection for him and the memory of him. God bless all of you as you say goodbye to him, and honor the truly full life he lived.
- Peggy McDonough

Peggy Mcdonough - December 31, 2013 at 09:13 AM

AC

Peggy, that was a beautiful tribute! Thank you so much! Love to you and your family.

andy cier - January 17, 2014 at 02:40 AM

BF

“ My wife Sharon and I would like to express our condolences to Don's family. I hired on at Syro in 1967. As a laborer I didn't get to know Don until I moved onto the presidency of the local union at Syro. Later I got to know him much better as I moved into sales, but a story from those early union days always typified what I saw in Don. Our union negotiations had broken down and the membership voted to strike. Though it was in April, that year it was unseasonably cold and windy, and the workers who were walking the picket line were suffering from it. There was a prebuilt shack inside the shop, and Don had plant management carry the shack (by forklift) out to where the strikers were picketing, and it provided some much needed shelter. I could write much more about my admiration of Don, and many other experiences with him, but I think this story is a good example of how he felt about people. He kept the feeling of family in our work place all the years he was our boss, but more importantly, our friend! We missed his presence when he retired, and we'll remember him always.

Love to you all,

Bill and Sharon Forbes

Bill Forbes - December 29, 2013 at 12:03 PM



Bill, your story of our father is beautiful; I have never heard that before but it does not surprise me. Dad was a very compassionate and empathetic person. Thank you for sharing this story. - Andy Cier

Andy Cier - December 30, 2013 at 09:11 PM