



Donald David Davis

April 9, 1939 - May 5, 2021

Donald D. Davis “Don” – A great teacher, mentor and generous friend to all he knew passed away on May 5, 2021, at his home in Ivins, UT. He was 82, born in Jacksonville, FL to James David Davis and Leo Estelle (Grady) Davis.

After graduating from Lee High School, Don attended Brigham Young University where he played varsity baseball and basketball. He played one season of minor league baseball before deciding to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in southern California and returning to BYU to complete both a BS and MPA degree. He married Elaine Facer in the Salt Lake City Temple on August 20, 1965.

Don began his illustrious career in human resources and labor relations with Mobil Oil Company in NYC. He later worked as a senior executive for several other companies – Ryder Truck Rental in Miami FL, Wilson Foods in Oklahoma City and CSX Transportation in Jacksonville FL. Don served 38 years on the National Advisory Council for the BYU Marriott School of Business and was Chairman from 1998-2000. He felt BYU changed his life and wanted to give back, so after his retirement from CSX in 1998 he taught at the Marriott School before retiring to southern Utah in 2001.

A devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Don served in Oklahoma City as a bishop and in Richmond Virginia as president of

the Chesterfield VA Stake and in Gunlock UT as a Sunday school teacher. While serving in Virginia, he often pondered with other church leaders the need for an LDS university in the eastern United States. When the opportunity arose in 1996, he co-founded what is now Southern Virginia University and served as a trustee from 1996-2006 and received an honorary PhD in 2006. Always a loyal fan of BYU, Don was surprised when he and Elaine were asked to serve a mission with the BYU Athletic Department in 2002. He offered to be a volunteer, but the university president made it official with the Mission Department of the Church, after which they were both formally called and set apart as missionaries by President Merrill J. Bateman.

Feeling that his success and happiness were born out of his education and experience at BYU, Don endowed scholarships at both BYU and SVU with the hopes that the recipients would also have life changing experiences at these institutions.

He is survived by: his wife of 55 years, Elaine (Facer) Davis; four sons, James Bradley Davis, Jeffrey William Davis (Tracy), Matthew Joseph Davis, and Joshua David Davis (Naomi); 11 grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by: his parents; and by his brother William Jack Davis; and granddaughter Amber Lynn Davis.

His life will be celebrated in the Gunlock Chapel at 733 N. Main, Gunlock UT on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 12 noon. A viewing will be held prior to the funeral service from 9:30-11:30am. Burial will be at the Ivins City Cemetery, Ivins, UT.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the James D. and Estelle Davis Scholarship in the BYU Marriott School of Business, named in honor of Don's parents. To make a donation please contact Jeremiah Christenot at 801-372-6349 or jeremiah@byu.edu or follow the link <https://don>

ate.churchofjesuschrist.org/donations/byu?funds=30187554&.

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at www.SerenityStG.com. Arrangements and memorial tree planting by Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 435-986-9100.

Cemetery Details

Ivins Cemetery

200 West 400 North
Ivins, UT

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 15. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Gunlock Chapel
733 N. Main St.
Gunlock, UT

Funeral Service

MAY 15. 12:00 PM (MT)

Gunlock Chapel
733 N. Main St.
Gunlock, UT

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - July 05, 2023 at 12:59 PM

RR

“ Dear Elaine,

You may not remember me, but I am a lifelong friend of our mutual friend, Hal Evans. It was through Hal that I met your dear husband, Don. I remember with great fondness the many times I had the opportunity to play golf with Don and Hal and their other friends at Bloomington CC when we were in the St. George area. Don and I were true-blue Cougar fans and, naturally, we had fun teasing, and being teased by, our Ute friend. It was with great sadness that I learned of his passing -- a great loss not only to you and your family, of course, but to everyone else who knew him. In addition to our friendly banter on the golf course, I remember Don's kindness and generosity to many people he knew and loved and even to a number of people he didn't know -- his (and your) generosity to others is an example to me of great character and goodness. I am so sorry not to have been able to share in what I have heard was a wonderful service in his memory. May the Lord bless and comfort you and your family at this tender time.

With sincere condolences and warm regards,

*Bob Russell
Orem, UT*

Robert Russell - May 24, 2021 at 03:13 PM

JS

“ Dear Elaine, I was saddened to see that Don had passed and express to you my deepest sympathy. My days with Don and you go all the way back to your short stay in New York. Though short, it was long enough for Don and you, to have a real impact on my life. I think all the young men in the ward had a crush on you and we loved Don for his enthusiasm and the pure joy that he brought into the room. Don gave me tremendous confidence on the basketball court, helped me with my jump shot (in fact, I always told people that I patterned my shot after Don's and New York Knick great Dave Debusschere. The shot that I developed allowed me a fun career at SHS and to walk on for one year at BYU). Don made me feel good about myself even during my awkward "lurpy" teen years. I suspect he never knew his influence on me but I will always smile as I think about this great man. Again my sympathy to you and your whole family! I know he will be sorely missed by all!

Sincerest Regards,

*Jeff Simmons
Westchester Ward, NY
1964-1974*

Jeff Simmons - May 19, 2021 at 03:59 PM

DS

“ Hi Elaine,

I am a voice from the past...from Scarsdale NY. We are so sorry to hear about Don's passing. I have a great memories of you both in my parents, Bonne and Ted Simmons home plus being members of the Westchester Ward. When I think of both you and Don I remember you were both so kind and so fun to be around. I remember Don playing basketball in the ward gym and you both taking care of us when my mom would travel with my dad. I remember you with so much fondness and am so glad that you were part of my growing up years. Thanks so much for being a part of the Simmons Family lives.

I hope that you are surrounded by your beloved family at this challenging time.

*lots of love
Debby Simmons*

debby simmons - May 18, 2021 at 05:41 PM

LE

“ Don "Bishop Davis" was our bishop when we moved to Oklahoma City to attend Law School. He was immediately so kind and welcoming. He came to our not-so-nice-neighborhood home for a visit shortly after we moved in, and sat on our ratty falling-apart furniture, and treated us like equals. He and Elaine opened their home to the young marrieds, and were always willing to serve the ward members. Don helped arrange for my first job during law school, clerking for the corporate legal department of Wilson Foods Corporation where Don was a Senior Executive. As we were both avid BYU fans, he would open the church nearly any night BYU had a football or basketball game on, and we would rig the church satellite dish to get the feed. Many years later, we would see each other at BYU football games, and he always remembered me with a smile and friendly chat. We will forever be grateful for the life of Don Davis, the service he gave, and the kindness he showed. Dear Elaine... Karlene and I love you and appreciate all you did for us back in 1982-1986. Those years helped put us on a solid path both spiritually and temporally. Best to you and your family.

*Lonnie & Karlene Eliason
Cottonwood Heights, Utah*

Lonnie Eliason - May 17, 2021 at 06:57 PM

DS

“ Having lived in Jacksonville, Florida for a couple of years before my call to serve in the California Mission I had heard of Don Davis but we did not meet until we were both serving in the Tucson, Az. District in 1961. We quickly became friends as we served together and then were roommates at BYU. We made several road round trips to Florida while in school until we both met our sweethearts and future wives, Linda and Elaine. In later years we have enjoyed time with the Davises in their in Ivins and Star Valley homes. Don was a great athlete, a smart businessman, a devoted member of the church, and a generous, caring man with a fun sense of humor. Linda and I will miss him dearly - I truly loved him like a brother. Till we meet again.....

Pete Strickland

Donald K. Strickland - May 14, 2021 at 11:31 PM

SP

“ Sincere condolences to you Elaine and your family. Don was easy to love and appreciate. His insights were always pertinent and meaningful, still he applied himself to much listening too. Having come to know him a little in the last ten years, we could appreciate the accumulated wisdom he's acquired throughout a dedicated life of service. It was a privilege to meet and get to know him.

-Serge & Elodie Petelo

Serge & Elodie Petelo - May 13, 2021 at 07:59 PM

NH

“Claralyn and I knew Don and Elaine as stalwart and generous supporters of BYU and especially it's Marriott School of Business. Everyone loved them both! Every other year, the Marriott School's National Advisory Council (which Don chaired for several years) went on an adventure somewhere in the world: South Africa, the Greek Islands, Peru, China, Scandinavia. Don and Elaine with their self-deprecating humor, kindness and love were the life of those adventures. I can see them now dancing on the ship in the Mediterranean, Don receiving acupuncture from a Chinese expert, hiking in the jungles of Peru, stalking lions in South Africa, Don was the hub of all humor and everyone's best friend. We all loved that remarkable couple! What a positive mark they left on everyone and every organization they touched. What a happy, positive, optimistic influence he and Elaine have been on all who came within their sphere of influence. Farewell Don--you left an awesome mark on all of us! Ned Hill, Emeritus Dean, Marriott School of Business, BYU.

Ned C. Hill - May 13, 2021 at 04:14 PM

JS

“I'll never forget Don's generosity of heart. I remember one time Don spoke in church and very eloquently recited the Sermon on the Mount. A few weeks later one of the young women, mocking him, spent her entire talk reciting some obscure passage of the Old Testament. Not only was Don not offended, he sponsored this young woman so she could attend SVU. I was so impressed with this exemplary character.

Jeanette Smith - May 13, 2021 at 04:06 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Donald David Davis.*



May 13, 2021 at 01:43 PM



“ *When I was Director of BYU Travel Study, I had the opportunity to Travel With Don and Elaine several times. They were wonderful people and friends. I loved Don's sense of humor. He never missed an opportunity to insert a comment that made me and others laugh. He was willing to accept teasing as well as dish out his share. What a fun person he was in life. I am certainly glad I was able to associate with Don and Elaine on several occasions. So sorry to learn of the passing of this great man. George Talbot*

George J. Talbot - May 13, 2021 at 10:01 AM



“ *Don's smile and very presence radiated love and strength. He served as our remarkable stake President and he and Elaine were in our Midlothian Ward. Elaine, I love you, and my thoughts and prayers are with you. Not sure if you will remember me from so many years ago, but you were a regular support and mentor to me as a young mother even as you were busy as wife and mother in your own home. I will remember you both as examples of great spirituality and faithful service to our Lord.*

Sue Taylor - May 13, 2021 at 07:35 AM

JN

“ We are so grateful for both Don and Elaine. We have benefited greatly from your kindness and generosity. We will miss Don’s warmth and smile and friendliness. Don was so incredibly kind and patient with our children when we would visit in Ivins or run into one another in Provo. Our son Tanner loved the time Don took him for a ride around the neighborhood in a “sweet fast” car. Much love to the Davis family, Matt and Jessica Nix

Jessica Nix - May 13, 2021 at 01:36 AM

RO

“ Dear Elaine
Please accept our heart felt condolences for Don’s passing. It was a privilege to have known him. I know he will be sorely missed. We so enjoyed his enthusiastic Sunday school lessons and his warm “southern gentleman” personality. It is always inspiring to see a genuinely good person have remarkable success.
With love, Diane & Dick Ottosen

Richard Ottosen - May 12, 2021 at 06:06 PM

AO

“ So very sad to hear of Dons passing. I have often passed him as he walked in the Stone Gate neighborhood while walking my dog, and he was always so pleasant. He will be missed. Our prayers go to you, Elaine, and your family.
Love,
Kelly and Arlene Olsen

Arlene Olsen - May 11, 2021 at 10:29 PM

CH

“ I have enjoyed being neighbors with Don and Elaine in Provo! Our entire family would get excited to see this lovely couple seated on the center back row at our ward when they would be in town-- usually on a weekend when BYU was playing a game! Don had such a cheerful, dynamic, and magnetic personality! My granddaughter Hannah, as a shy little girl, immediately was drawn to him. Every time Don saw her at church or the pool, he would make such a beautiful fuss over her, give her a big hug, and treat her like the most special princess ever! Don had profound and insightful comments in gospel doctrine class. It was clear to everyone that he had a solid testimony, depth of knowledge and was a true and dedicated follower of Jesus Christ. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Elaine and your family at this difficult time. Don will surely be missed. His enthusiasm, smile and genuine kindness truly has inspired me!
With love, Cathy Hall



Cathy Hall - May 11, 2021 at 09:04 PM

MM

“ Dear Elaine and Family,

I was very surprised and sad to hear of Don's passing. I smile as I think of the positive and seasoned comments he contributed in Sunday school. I could tell he had done great things in his life, but I didn't know much of what he had done until reading his obituary. He was a giver, sharer, and supporter, not one to brag. I am grateful for the contributions he (and you, Elaine) have made to our Provo ward as examples of goodness.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou McNamara

Mary Lou McNamara - May 11, 2021 at 07:58 PM

HE

“ *I met Don and Elaine when I moved to Florida in 1991. Don and Elaine made an instant impact on my life. We served together in Young Men's Presidency and on the Stake High Council. When we moved to St George we spent hours together for years on the golf course. We debated for hours the Utah-BYU rivalry. We shared many memorable Dinners with Don and his sweet wife. Don was kind enough to roast me constantly at my 50th Birthday. Those things are great memories but what always struck me most was that Don as well as Elaine were always there to want to help me through any challenge or issue I faced in my life. They always wanted to do for me and others and did so constantly. He was a real competitor but he was soft hearted underneath it all and was the first to reach out even to those he hardly knew. My dear friend I am going to miss you very much. Until we meet again my thoughts and prayers go out to Elaine and your family.*

Hal Evans

Harold Evans - May 11, 2021 at 01:23 PM

BA

“ Don was such a warm and genuine person. I will miss him greatly. Given his significant relationship with the Marriott School of Business, he and I made an instant connection when I joined the Marriott School faculty in 2009. Don always had a wide smile and a gentle handshake any time we were together. I remember the wonderful insights he would share with us in our quorum meetings and the love that he radiated to all around him. May Elaine and the rest of his family be comforted at this time of separation through the knowledge that it is only temporary, and in the continuing warmth of his brilliant light.

Brad Agle - May 11, 2021 at 12:32 PM

CG

“ Don was filled with a great energy and spirit and was always looking to give back to help others. He was gracious with the youth in our Meadow Wood Ward and allowed us to use his home for a youth conference. Elaine - you and Don are loved by many here in the Meadow Wood! I hope you feel love and support from those around you and the sustaining and comforting peace that comes from your testimony of the Savior's atoning sacrifice. With love, Bishop Gerstner

Cannon Gerstner - May 10, 2021 at 09:43 PM