

Donald Joseph Tonner

April 13, 1924 - August 26, 2023

Donald Joseph Tonner, age 99, of Rensselaer, passed away August 26, 2023 at Autumn Trace Assisted Living in Rensselaer. Don was born on April 13, 1924 in Rensselaer, Indiana, the son of Paul C. & Callista (Reiff) Tonner.

Don graduated from the St. Joseph's Academy in Rensselaer in 1942. On September 4, 1948, in Momence, IL, he married Pama Call, who preceded him in death on March 27, 2015.

Don was a successful business co-owner with his brother George. They owned and operated numerous businesses in Rensselaer, including Superior Cleaners and Laundry, Tonner Motors, and John Deere implement dealerships in Kentland and Knox, IN. They also owned and operated a cleaners/laundry business in Valparaiso, IN and Watseka, IL, a furniture store and a grocery store in Chesterton, IN with their brothers Jerry, Bob, Art and Harry. In his later years, Don enjoyed managing some farm property.

Don was an avid reader and tried to learn as much as he could. He enjoyed following social & political events. Above all, he enjoyed his family and having them come over to his and Pama's house to swim in their pool. He also enjoyed spending time with friends and entertaining. Don was also a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church.

Don is survived by his two daughters, Pama (Timothy) Schreeg and Donna (Steve) Bailey, both of Rensselaer, five grandchildren, Ashley Hughes, Nathan (Rochelle) Bailey, Brandon (Beth) Schreeg, Megan (Jake) Sipe & Sarah (Marcus) Horschel; nine great-grandchildren, Jackson Hughes, Adelyn Hughes, Kanden Bailey, Avaya Horschel, Brody Horschel, Callista Bailey, Benjamin Schreeg, Alexa Sipe and Ava Schreeg. Also surviving are two brothers, Gerald (Bette) Tonner & Harold (Marcia) Tonner, two sisters, Carolyn (Jerry) Grube & Suzanne (Jim) Wright, sisters-in-law, Betty Tonner, Margie Tonner, and Jean Tonner

He was preceded in death by his wife, Pama, four brothers, George Tonner, Bob Tonner, Leo Tonner, Art Tonner, one sister, Pauline Cody, brother-in-law, Dick Cody, sister-in-law, Phyllis Tonner.

Friends are invited to visit with family at Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 CT from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. A Rosary service will follow immediately at 11:30 AM and a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Rensselaer at 12:00 PM with Father Joshua Bennett officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Rensselaer.

Memorials may be made to the St. Augustine Catholic School (<https://s-augustine.org/>) or OperationSmile.org (<https://www.operationssmile.org/ways-give>)

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Cemetery - Rensselaer

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Rosary

AUG 30. 11:30 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Funeral Mass

AUG **30**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - August 29, 2023 at 10:32 AM

JS

“ *Judie Steiner lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Judie Steiner - August 31, 2023 at 09:56 PM

JS

Pama and Donna I was sorry to learn of your Dad's passing. May God bless you and your family.

Judie Steiner - August 31, 2023 at 10:05 PM

DN

“ *Marcia and I truly enjoyed working with Don; what a sharp mind. Don was always eager to learn and never missed an opportunity to pick someone's brain about a subject that he had an interest in. Every once in a while you'd see that special smile and look, when you had an idea that he hadn't thought of; which was rarely. God bless Don and the entire Tonner Family.*
Doug & Marcia Nagel

Doug Nagel - August 30, 2023 at 12:04 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph Tonner.*



August 29, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph Tonner.*



August 29, 2023 at 12:27 PM

SL

“ *So Sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Heartfelt condolences, Pama and Donna. Mary and Susan Lewis*

Susan and Mary Lewis - August 29, 2023 at 10:46 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph Tonner.*



August 29, 2023 at 10:29 AM

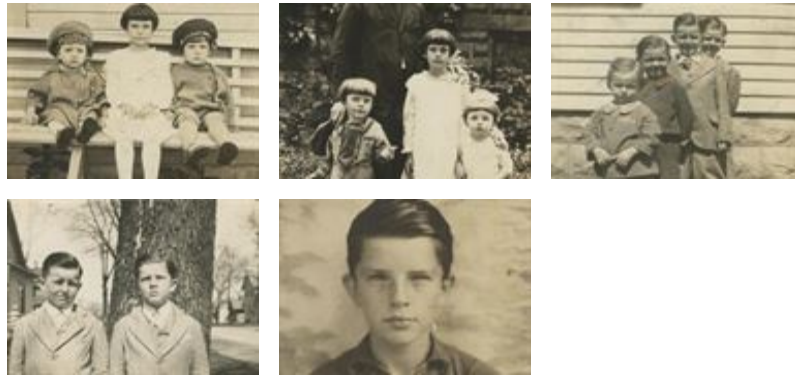


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Joseph Tonner.

August 29, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ 62 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jackson Funeral Chapels - August 29, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Lisa Houston lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Lisa Houston - August 29, 2023 at 10:25 AM

JS

“ *Jim Steiner lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Jim Steiner - August 29, 2023 at 09:31 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph Tonner.*



August 28, 2023 at 11:32 PM

JA

“ *JaniceHopkinsMalchow lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



JaniceHopkinsMalchow - August 28, 2023 at 11:29 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph Tonner.*



August 28, 2023 at 11:19 PM

DM

“ Don & Jenny McClellan lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner



Don & Jenny McClellan - August 28, 2023 at 10:24 PM

DM

Pama, Don & I are so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Keeping all your family in our prayers.

Don & Jenny McClellan - August 28, 2023 at 10:25 PM

AV

“ Pama and family,
My condolences on the passing of your father. Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers.

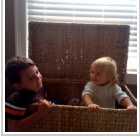
Amy Valade - August 28, 2023 at 05:48 PM

SG

“ Steve, Diana Gaines lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner



Steve, Diana Gaines - August 28, 2023 at 05:37 PM



“ *Bill & Deb Brown*



Bill Brown - August 28, 2023 at 03:00 PM



“ *Jeff And Kris Phillips lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Jeff and Kris Phillips - August 28, 2023 at 01:44 PM



I always enjoyed Mr. Tonner's visits to the City of Rensselaer Street Department. He was a savant when it came to math. He would have his utility bill in tow and he would tell me exactly to the penny how much it was going to cost him to fill that pool and would leave me copy of his math notes. Once his water bill would come in he would come back to my office with a big smile and ask for the note to compare his numbers to the utility office numbers.

Kris Phillips - August 28, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *Don & Gloria Waymouth*



Don Waymouth - August 28, 2023 at 12:53 PM

SC

“ *Susie Canaday lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Susie Canaday - August 28, 2023 at 12:13 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Donald Joseph Tonner*



Judy Burvan - August 28, 2023 at 11:47 AM