

## Don Cannon



Don Cannon went to be with his Lord and Savior on April, 19, 2009 after a long fought and courageous battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held 11:00 A.M. Thursday, April 23, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Steve Schorr officiating.

Don was born on September 18, 1939 in Wichita Falls, Texas to Doyle and Minnie Cannon. His family moved to Big Spring, Texas in January, 1941. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1958. His main interest in school was band. Don played the trumpet for 6 years while in Jr. High and High School and was part of a small dance band for several years also.

In 1959 he married Lyn Sneed and they had two children, Donald "Donny" Ray Jr. and Debra Lyn. He and Lyn were active members and workers at East Fourth Baptist Church in Big Spring. Don joined the U. S. Marine Corp Reserves in 1957 while he was a junior in high school and was honorably discharged from active duty in January, 1963. During his working career Don was mainly involved in food products. He started sacking groceries at Newsom's grocery store in 1951, when he

was 12 years old. He was assistant manager of the store at the time he went to work with the Frito-Lay Company in 1965. He and his family were transferred to Sweetwater, TX with Frito-Lay in January, 1967 and were active members of the First Baptist Church there. He was also active in the Sweetwater Jaycees and served as President in 1970. He was promoted to sales manager with Frito-Lay and was transferred to Midland, TX in January, 1971. He and his family were active members of the Wilshire Park Baptist Church here in Midland. In October 1975, Don went to work as a salesman for the John Sexton Co, a food service company headquartered in Chicago, Illinois with regional offices in Dallas. Rather than transfer with John Sexton to Dallas in 1981 and a promotion to sales manager, Don went to work for Cardinal Surveys, a local oil field service company and served as sales manager for 11 years before the Midland office closed in 1993. Later in 1993, Don went to work for Watson Food Company in Lubbock, Texas. Watson Foods was acquired by Sysco Foods in 2000 and Don retired from Sysco in May, 2001. Don had excellent selling skills and over the years won many outstanding sales awards with each and every company he worked for.

In 1992 Don met Donna Keller and they married on May 6, 1995. He and Donna would spend their remaining years together sharing a very special love for each other and traveling the world hand in hand. They were active members of First Presbyterian Church. Don started his retirement by accompanying a group of youth from the First Presbyterian Church to Fort Collins, Colorado in June, 2001. This would be the first of many youth trips he would participate as a member of First Presbyterian. His favorite youth trip was the annual trip to Juarez, Mexico with 75 to 100 youth and adults to build homes and churches for the Hispanic people there. He went on this particular trip for five years during spring break and headed up the cook team before being diagnosed with cancer in 2006. Before his death he had traveled with the youth of the church on 10 different trips. He was very active in the church and served in many positions within the different churches he was a member of. He had served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, treasurer of two different churches, head of a building committee and Chairman of the board of one church. He was on the board and served as President of the Chandelle Homeowners Association between 1996 and 2000. He was also active in the Hi Sky Emmaus community where he served as Lay Director for men's walk #122 in September, 2001.

Over the years, Don enjoyed participating in fast pitch softball, slow pitch softball, volleyball and golf. In his retirement years, he and his wife Donna were able to travel to many places around the world. Don always enjoyed playing golf wherever they traveled. He was a very organized, detailed and self disciplined individual in everything that he undertook. The trips that he and Donna took were always fully planned and taken care of months and sometimes years in advance as a result of his organizational skills. He was a happy man and loved his family more than anything else in this world. His goals in life were to be a loving, caring, and effective disciple for Christ, a good son, a loving husband, a kind and loving dad, a hard worker and a friend to all those whom he came into contact with.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Doyle in 1975; his sister, Jean in 1994; his brother, Kenneth in 1997; and his mother, Minnie in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Donna of Midland; one son, Donny and his wife Amelia of Grandfalls; one daughter, Debra and her husband Matt of San Antonio; two stepsons, Barry Keller of Hurst and Eric Keller and his wife Crystal of Ft. Worth. He had 7 grandchildren, 2 "grandawgs," 4 great-grandchildren, 3 nephews, 3 nieces and many cousins and his two beloved cats, Penelope and Pasquale.

While in the hospital, Don always considered the doctors and nurses who took care of him on 4E as his "New Best Friends" and "Guardian Angels." He did say on many occasion with a smile on his face, that all those who took such good care of him could have met at a more fun place other than the cancer wing of the hospital. He visited with them on a regular basis after leaving the hospital just to let them know how important all of them had become to him and his family.

Memorials can be made to the Midland College Foundation Nursing Scholarship in honor of the nurses who cared for Don, 3600 N. Garfield, Midland, Texas 79705, or to the First Presbyterian Church Youth Mission Trip, 800 W. Texas, Midland, Texas 79701. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home. To place on-line condolences please visit [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).