

Donald J. Roetering, 85, of Alexandria, Minnesota, passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at Bethany Nursing Home in Alexandria.

Don was born on July 6, 1937, in Breese, Illinois, the youngest of seven children born to John Henry and Mary (Weinheimer) Roetering. He grew up in Beckemeyer, Illinois, and he attended St. Anthony Elementary School and Mater Dei Highschool, where he graduated in 1955.

While a sophomore in high school, Don met and fell in love with Joanna Huelsmann. He and Joanna were married on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1957.

The newlyweds moved to Chicago, Illinois, where Don was employed as a billing clerk for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, which later became Burlington Northern. In 1961 he transferred to the security division of the railroad, and over the course of his career assumed roles of increasing responsibility with moves that took him and his family to Galesburg, Illinois, Quincy, Illinois; Fridley, Minnesota; Seattle, Washington; Naperville, Illinois; and Lincoln, Nebraska. Upon his retirement as Chief Special Agent from the railroad in 1991, Don and Joanna settled in Alexandria, Minnesota, and spent many winters in Arizona and Texas.

In his youth, Don was a talented baseball and basketball player – talents that he enjoyed sharing with his children and their friends while serving as a coach for youth football, baseball, and basketball teams. During his retirement years, Don enjoyed woodworking, golfing, fishing, running, biking, and of course, spending time with his family and friends.

Don is survived by his wife, Joanna; his daughter Linda Reko (Ken); his sons, Brian (Diana), Kevin (Christina), Steve (Wendy); grandchildren, Anna Arneson (James), Stephanie Bata (Reily), Samantha, John, Katharine, and Alexander Roetering; great-grandchildren Max and Jack Arneson; and his sister, Mary Hruska. Don was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Ervin and Eugene; and his sisters Henrietta, Helen, and Leona.

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.*

*I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.*

I could not stay another day,

To laugh, to love, to work, to play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way,

I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,

Then fill it with remembered joy.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,

Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,

I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My Life's been full, I savored much,

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,

God wanted me now, He set me free.

Arrangements By

Anderson Funeral Home - Alexandria, Minnesota

In Loving Memory of

Donald J. Roetering

July 6, 1937



November 9, 2022



Memorial Service

Anderson Funeral Home

Alexandria, Minnesota

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 11:00 AM

Officiant

Reverend Father Matthew Kuhn

Honorary Pallbearers

Anna Arneson Katherine Roetering

Stephanie Bata Alexander Roetering

Samantha Roetering John Roetering

Readers

James Arneson Wendy Roetering

Ken Reko

Words of Remembrance

Stephanie Bata

Inurnment

Kinkead Cemetery

Alexandria, Minnesota