



## Donald Martin Hjortland

December 22, 1928 - December 23, 2018

Donald Martin Hjortland, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and uncle was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on December 22, 1928 and died December 23, 2018, in Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Florida. He died of heart complications peacefully surrounded by his family having just celebrated his 90th birthday.

At age four, upon his mother's death, Donald, his sister, and father moved to Beloit, Wisconsin to live with his maternal grandparents where he lived until his father married Alice Miller of Janesville, Wisconsin. They moved to Long Lake, Illinois in 1937 which was his principal residence until his death.

Donald was a lifelong ham radio enthusiast with call numbers W9ZJR. His membership to the American Radio Relay Club allowed him to establish connections with other ham operators all over the world. At the same time, he started a radio repair business, working on the huge old tube radios. He was always proud that he became a businessman employing other young men at age 15. At the same age, he started flying lessons and earned his pilot's license at 16 the youngest age permissible.

Donald attended Grant High School in Fox Lake, Illinois. He was captain of the boxing team, a sport he pursued in college.

Upon graduation from Grant High School, he attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, for two years. In the pursuit of his passion for flying, he would often rent a small plane in Northfield to fly home to Long Lake for a visit. In winter he would land on the lake's frozen surface creating quite a stir. He transferred from St. Olaf to Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, where he was a member of the Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity. His fraternity awarded him the nickname Radar because of all the radio antennae on his car. During his time at Purdue he won the boxing championship and graduated with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1951.

After graduation, he went to work for the Potter Company in North Chicago, Illinois, where

he developed radio noise filters for military aircraft. He served in the army in El Paso, Texas, teaching the RCAT system the entire time. After the Army, he went to work for his father at The Steel Supply Company, a steel warehouse, in the Chicago suburbs. He became president and worked there until the end of his life. Early on he added a machine shop, Caliber Engineering, within The Steel Supply Company with Russell Wertke. In 1966 he started Precision Chrome a hard chrome plating company with Albert "Bud" Busscher in Fox Lake, Illinois. In addition to his career in the Steel Industry, he proudly served on the Board of Directors at MB Financial Bank in Morton Grove for a number of years and was a member of MENSA his adult life.

Throughout his life he was an avid pilot, flying his Piper Aerostar for business as well as pleasure. He eventually learned to fly a helicopter and flew his Robinson 22 to work during which he turned a frustrating hour of driving into a joyful 15 minutes of flying. He was also a member of AOPA.

His other interests were sailing in the Caribbean and on Long Lake where he was a member of the Long Lake Yacht Club. He rode motorcycles and was a member of a motorcycle club named the Streeterville Scramblers of Chicago. He traveled with that group both nationally and internationally. He spoke fluent Spanish and for the last 20 years spent every September in Nerja, Spain.

He is preceded in death by his father Martin Olai Hjortland; his birth mother Cecelia nee Gosline; his beloved step-mother, Alice Leora Miller of Janesville, Wisconsin; his daughter Marcie Hjortland his sisters: Marceil Naidenovich Pleis (Skip), Sondra Hjortland Dose (Richard), and Bonnie Newman Uyttebroeck (George).

He is survived by his spouse Margaret Cronin Hjortland, and his previous wife, Wilma Jeanne Hanlon; his daughter Cheryl Hjortland Preece (Roy, deceased); son Donald ("Skip") Owen Hjortland (Kristen Laxgang); stepdaughter Cassandra Anne Teschner McKeen (Brian); stepson John Stephen Teschner (Deborah Prespare); his sister Kristi Hjortland Bertolette (Michael); brother Martin Jon Hjortland (Cindy); four grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2019, 10:00 am with a service to follow at noon at Ringa Funeral Home, 122 South Milwaukee Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 25519 West Illinois Route 134, Ingleside, Illinois 60041 and/or The Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association, PO Box 175, Ingleside, Illinois 60041.

To read more memories, follow this link <https://goo.gl/TVRnfo>.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 19. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
info@ringafuneralhome.com  
<http://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

JAN 19. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home  
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
info@ringafuneralhome.com  
<http://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Martin Hjortland*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Donald Martin Hjortland*

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM

LN

“ *Love, Bill and Kellye Naidenovich purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Martin Hjortland.*



**Love, Bill and Kellye Naidenovich** - January 18, 2019 at 12:31 PM



“ *50 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**Ringa Funeral Home and Cremation Service** - January 18, 2019 at 12:18 PM

RI

“ *Rich & Connie Fitzgerald, Schaumburg, IL purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald Martin Hjortland.*



**Rich & Connie Fitzgerald, Schaumburg, IL** - January 18, 2019 at 10:23 AM

SS

“ Swartout Sales - Gary & Kathy Swartout purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Donald Martin Hjortland.



Swartout Sales - Gary & Kathy Swartout - January 17, 2019 at 03:54 PM

TC

“ The Steel Supply Company purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Martin Hjortland.



The Steel Supply Company - January 14, 2019 at 09:15 AM

LC

“ Lori Costain lit a candle in memory of Donald Martin Hjortland



Lori Costain - January 03, 2019 at 04:37 PM

JF

“ We would like to express our deepest sympathy. May those precious memories be foremost in your hearts and minds during this difficult time.  
Isaiah 25:8

Jackson Family - December 30, 2018 at 09:23 AM

LM

“ Linda Schroeder Matheson lit a candle in memory of Donald Martin Hjortland



Linda Schroeder Matheson - December 27, 2018 at 10:42 PM

LB

*Please accept the Rolling Meadows Chamber of Commerce's sincerest thoughts. Our business organization is proud to have The Steel Supply Company as a long-standing chamber member. Donald Martin Hjortland will be remembered with fondness by the R.M. Chamber for his ongoing dedication and work ethics; business savvy leadership; and flying/flight enthusiast. The only helipad/helicopter pad that exists in Rolling Meadows was through Mr. Hjortland's efforts and remains on the premises of The Steel Supply Company which brought much attention to our community many years ago. His incredible energy and continued involvement with The steel Supply Company will be missed.*

*Rolling Meadows Chamber Board of Directors  
Linda Liles Ballantine, Executive Director*

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**Linda Liles Ballantine** - January 07, 2019 at 01:02 PM

JW

*Please accept my condolences to the entire Hjortland family upon hearing of Don's passing.*

*As background, my name is Jim Weir, and my father by the same name worked for decades at the Steel Supply Co. from the mid-fifties until his passing in 1985. They had a pretty close working relationship over the years. As I remember, my dad was kind of his "right-hand man".*

*My dad started with Steel Supply back when they were on Aberdeen Street in Chicago, and then when they moved out to Schiller Park. The best thing about the place he always said was meeting my mom there.*

*He then was in charge of locating the larger premises back in the 70's out in Rolling Meadows (no coincidence close to our home in Palatine?).*

*I'll always remember how kind Don was to our family. Everything from being up in Long Lake at the house in the summer, and the winter as well. I recall one harrowing ride in the winter riding with him as we zoomed across the lake on the ice!*

*And then there were all our summer vacations that we took as Don would let my dad use the cabin up in Three Lakes, Wisconsin in the summer for a couple of weeks each August. Very fond childhood memories...*

*and I'll never forget the plane ride when Don took my sister and I up in the plane with my dad for a ride. My dad was an ex-navy pilot, and I know he would appreciate it when Don would let him "take control" and fly for a while.*

*But most of all I'll remember how kind Don was when my dad was sick with cancer. My dad stayed on as long as he was able, but there was no hesitation from Steel Supply to fully pay all his hospital bills. That was such a nice thing for Don to do and was a relief to my mom. You don't see that these days...*

*My dad always had a great admiration for Don. From reading the obituary, he certainly led a full life.*

*I like to think of him now enjoying a drink with my dad up in heaven.*

*Jim Weir Jr.*

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**Jim Weir** - January 28, 2019 at 03:13 PM