



Donald Leo Grothe

December 02, 1940 - May 04, 2020

Donald Leo Grothe, 79 years young of Lake Mills, died Monday, May 4, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

A private family memorial service for Don L. Grothe will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at Mittelstadt Funeral Home with Pastor Joel Guttormson of Salem Lutheran Church officiating. The memorial service will be livestreamed on the Mittelstadt Funeral Home Facebook page.

The family will host a drive thru visitation from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. on Friday, May 8th, at Mittelstadt Funeral Home 902 East Main St., Lake Mills, Iowa 50450. Upon arrival, please stay in your vehicles and drive through the funeral home garage where the family will be there to greet you.

Donald Leo Grothe was born on December 2, 1940 in Creighton, Nebraska to Joe and Rose (Hettenbach) Grothe. Don enlisted in the United States Navy, serving his country honorably from 1958-1959.

On May 13, 1961, Don married his better half, Ila (Bergo). The couple was blessed (and sometimes stressed!) with five wonderful children: Tammy, Rhonda, Randy, Dawn, and Kevin. They lived in Minneapolis for five years where he worked at Federal Stamping and started his first business, Suburban Lawn Care. They moved to Lake Mills in 1969 where he opened The Lake Mills Rec. Equipped with an 8th grade education, a quick wit, and a stubborn side, Don purchased Veterans Oil Station. He later changed the name to Don's Motor Mart, and it quickly became a Lake Mills staple. He was proud that it is still owned by the Grothe family. Don truly enjoyed owning "the station" and looked forward to talking to his customers each and every day.

When Don wasn't working, you could find him at the golf course in the summer, going on ski trips with his family during the winter months, or making friends all year round. Don didn't judge his own success by the value of his business, instead he viewed himself successful by the values and virtues he passed down to his family and friends: Be kind, enjoy the moment, and never take life too seriously – there's always time for a good laugh!

He is preceded in death by both parents, Joe and Rose Grothe; father and mother in-law, Rudolph and Jeneva Bergo; siblings, Joey Grothe, Paul Grothe, Frieda Olson, Jenny Brower, and Dick Grothe; as well as a grandson, Jacob Grothe.

Don is survived by his wife of nearly 59 years, Ila Grothe; daughter Tammy Hamilton and her children, Mike (Dawn) Hamilton and their children, Cameron, Emma, and Bella; Ashley (Mason) Schares and their child, Killian; daughter, Rhonda (Doug) Harmon and their children, Chalsea (Drew) Roder and their kids, Gracie, Jeneva, and Peyton; Derek (Jesus Gonzales) Harmon, and Jerod (Samantha) Harmon; son, Randy (Christi) Grothe and their children, Sam and Katie; daughter,

Dawn (Lindsey) Butterfield and their children, Joshua (Lauren Moniot) Grothe and their son, Andrew; Amber (Mike) Benusa and their daughter, Charlee; and Brianna Butterfield; son, Kevin (Jolene Carter) Grothe and his children, Kray and Claire Grothe and their mother, Chrissy Grothe; sister, Teresa Zila; brother, Jim Grothe; sisters in-law, Carolyn Grothe, Sandy Grothe, Rita Anderson and Janet Bergo; as well as many extended relatives and even more friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that you spend a day doing the things Don would do: Take someone golfing. Buy someone lunch. Or take the time to get to know a stranger. If you feel inclined, memorials may be directed to MercyOne North Iowa Hospice, Salem Lutheran Church, or the donor's choice.

Cemetery



SALEM MEMORIAL CEMETERY

HWY 69 North, Lake
Mills, Iowa 50450

Events



VISITATION

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Mittelstadt Funeral Home 902 East Main Street, Lake Mills, IA 50450 Upon arrival, please stay in your vehicles and drive through the funeral home garage where the family will be there to greet you. There will be a place for a card drop but will be no register book.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:30 AM

Mittelstadt Funeral Home 902 East Main Street, Lake Mills, IA 50450 This will be for family only. The memorial service for the public will be livestreamed on the Mittelstadt Funeral Home Facebook page.

Tribute Wall

L

Leon (Lee) Grothe



"Golf"
was given in memory of Donald Leo Grothe

 [Leave a symbol](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

D

Douglas

My favorite father-in-law I don't know how many people can say that but I can, Love you man and will miss you every day.



debauk@wctatel.net

Larry and I would like to extend our love and deepest sympathy to Illa !! To Don and Illa's children Tammy , Rhonda , Dawn , Randy and Kevin we send our hugs and heartfelt sympathy to you all for the loss of Dad!! Also to Don's Grandchildren and also to Grandchildren and brothers and sisters! God bless you all! Wonderful man !! I always looed forward to seeing him open early so I could grab a bite to eat after a deep cleaning at the bar! Don would tease me how dirty my close were! We used to rent a motor home from him to go to Brainerd to the drag races! The entire family are just as wonderful as their father and Illa!! Our hears are with you !! Love and Hugs Larry and Deb Aukes

A

Angela Shaw

Soooo hard to believe....my heart aches so badly for you all...and for we who were blessed by your sharing "Dad's" presence In our lives...?????... Dear God...please help to remind us...that he walks beside you and beside us here on earth as well...Amen. To my "chosen family"...I love you all so very much...??



Tamara Hamilton

We love you to sis



Bridget Hanson



"Heart"
was given in memory of Donald Leo Grothe

 [Leave a symbol](#)

Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance

M**mittfh@wctatel.net****Life Journey Celebration Video**

This Tribute Video was custom created for the family of Donald Leo Grothe by .



Additional DVDs can be purchased as a keepsake.

T**Tamara Schuttler**

BEAUTIFUL !!!!

**debauk@wctatel.net**

BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE ,BEAUTIFUL MAN AND FAMILY!
HONOR TO HAVE KNOWN HIM AND HIS FAMILY!!

M**mittfh@wctatel.net****S****Steve Madson**

One of my favorite people! Don's was the place to be in the '80s when taking a break from cruising the loop. I never saw him without a smile. Super guy!

P**Phil Peterson**

I'll miss Don, we had a lot of laughs driving to and from work at Streaters. I always told Don he was the second hardest worker I knew. Because we both knew his brother Joe was number one in that category. Rest in peace Don you certainly deserve it. Our thoughts are with you all, God Bless. Phil & Mari

C**colleen Doyle**

Din will be greatly missed by the whole community. My girls pretty much grew up here we always went to his gas station he always had a smile on his face and it didn't matter who you were he always made time to stop and talk to everyone. He will be remembered for many many years. Rest in peace ??? y

V**Valerie Kvale**

Always smiling, always thinking of others. Don and Illa are so representative of the Lake Mills spirit of community. Our sympathies to Illa and families. Violet Kvale, Valerie Kvale, Bruce Polacek



Chris Hayes-Tweed

Craig Tweed: Don was like another dad to me, him and Ila used to babysit me, then I worked for them at the station in late 70's to 83. I would golf with him as much as possible. He even came down to Missouri last year to golf. He was a great person to be around and would do anything for anybody. Don will be missed very much by anyone that knew him. RIP Don Grothe.

P

Patty Hocking

I have only fond memories of Don and his kindness. I am so sorry Ila and family

R

Russell Smidt

My condolences to the Grothe family.

K

Ken Moen

I grew up with Don & the Grothe kids many years ago. We always had a Great time. We would always stop at the gas station to fill up before going home in Minnesota. I could always ask where is Don. They told me he was out Golfing. To Ila & family our thoughts & Prayers are with you all.

B

Bob Storby

I worked for Don & Ila for my first job back in 1980 at the "old" Dons station. Knowing Don and his family has been special for me. A lot of good memories at the station, golf course and with his kids and grandkids. Thoughts and prayers to all of the family. Bob Storby
