



Donald R. Keesling

June 24, 1949 - January 12, 2020

Donald R. “Donnie” Keesling, 70, life-long Randolph County farmer, passed away early on the morning of Sunday, January 12, 2020 surrounded by family at Friends Fellowship Community in Richmond.

He was born June 24, 1949, in Delaware County, the youngest child of the late Paul and Virginia (Coon) Keesling.

After graduating from Union High School in 1967, Donnie attended Purdue University. On August 31, 1968, he married his high school sweetheart, Barbara McCormick. They resided in West Lafayette while he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. Following graduation in 1971, Donnie and Barb moved back to Modoc to farm and raise their family. He also managed and shared ownership of the family business, Modoc Implement Sales, until 1993. Donnie continued his passion for farming, or as he called it, “playing in the dirt”. He enjoyed wintering in Florida the last several years where he could golf and spend time with friends and family.

Donnie served on the board of Dollars for Scholars for Union School Corporation, the St. Vincent Randolph Foundation Board, and the Indiana Soybean Board. He also quietly served in various capacities throughout the community. He was always glad to help in the background when needed.

Donnie was a quiet man with a subtle sense of humor. He was an excellent mechanic and problem-solver who others would often call for help. He was great at explaining how things worked and enjoyed teaching others about farming.

Those left to cherish Donnie's memory include his wife, Barb Keesling; three children, Carrie Keesling-Roth of Oklahoma City, OK, Bradley (wife: Lisa) Keesling of Modoc, and Kimberly "Kimmy" Keesling of Lafayette; six grandchildren, Alex, Sam, Harper Roth and Emma, Leah, Olivia Keesling; a sister, Ruth Bracken of Modoc; a brother, Dick (wife: Nina) Keesling of Kennett Square, PA, along with several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Diane Keesling.

Everyone is invited to a service to honor Donnie's life on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Farmland Friends Church. The service will begin at 3 p.m. followed by a gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a time to visit, share memories, tell stories, laugh, reminisce, and enjoy refreshments.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be offered to the donor's choice of the following: The Community Foundation of Randolph County, www.randolphcountyfoundation.org; Randolph County YMCA, www.randolphcountyyymca.org, or the Winchester Area Churches and Community Food Pantry, 124 E. Washington St. Winchester, IN 47374.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle.

You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

Previous Events

Service

FEB **15**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Farmland Friends Church
8311 IN-32
Farmland, IN 47340

Tribute Wall

TK

“ *Donnie was my dad's (Wendell Keesling) brother's son. When I was very young, the Keesling families would visit dad's grandparents often. I'm 64 now, and still unsure of reasons why our family drifted apart. He was always kind, and patiently answered my questions about John Deere implements. He was part of a wonderful family, and I know he will be missed.*

*Tom Keesling
North Carolina*

Tom Keesling - February 19, 2020 at 04:31 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald R. Keesling.*



February 07, 2020 at 02:08 PM

KE

“ *Barb, Ken and I were so very sorry to hear of Donnies passing. Please know that we will keep you and your family in our prayers.*

Ken and Judy Eschbacher

Ken and Judy Eschbacher - January 23, 2020 at 03:49 PM

MB

“ Barb, prayers to you and your family, Donnie was truly a class guy and will be missed by all who loved and were able to call him friend! I will always remember the good times we all had when we were young on New Years Eves!

Monty Blackburn - January 23, 2020 at 01:04 PM

JP

“ Barb, this is Jane (Gordon) Poole. I'm so sorry for your loss. What I remember about Donnie, is that he was just such a nice guy. Always soft spoken, but with a fun personality. How wonderful that you had him for so many years! Sending caring thoughts your way.

Jane Poole - January 18, 2020 at 11:11 AM

HT

“ Barbara, just want to offer my condolences on the passing of Donnie. I truly enjoyed knowing and working with him on our local scholarship board. I considered it my blessing to be able call Donnie a friend.

Harry G. Terrell

Harry G. Terrell - January 17, 2020 at 09:45 PM

BH

“ Many, many of my childhood memories have Don in them. We were seven or eight years old when we both got pop guns for Christmas. These pop guns fired small round corks. By the time I came for a summer visit all the corks were gone (down the heat register, under the couch, etc.). As luck would have it there was a Mulberry tree in Uncle Paul's front yard. Donnie and I climbed up in the tree and had a happy afternoon by stuffing Mulberries in our pop guns and shooting at each other. Our blue jeans and white tee shirts were covered with purple stains. Aunt Ginnie tried to scold us but she was laughing too hard. I hope there's a Mulberry tree when we meet again.

Bill Hammond - January 17, 2020 at 09:16 PM

RG

“ God bless you Donnie. We will miss your presence in the community.
Ric and Merry Glaser

Ric Glaser - January 17, 2020 at 05:28 PM

JL

“ I have more wonderful memories than I could ever begin to share. From one of my brothers' best friends in high school that I admired to a wonderful neighbor and great friend throughout the years...especially as we all raised our children. He will be greatly missed.

Jenny Lee - January 17, 2020 at 03:42 PM

CM

“ *Brad and Kim,
I'm so sorry to learn of passing of your dad. My prayers are with you
and your family during this difficult time.*
Carol Mills

Carol Mills - January 17, 2020 at 02:43 PM