



## Donald M. Mitchell

June 15, 1932 - March 21, 2023

Donald M. Mitchell, 90, unexpectedly, yet peacefully passed into the waiting arms of his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at his residence in Napoleon. Don was born June 15, 1932 in Napoleon, Ohio to the late Paul and Helen (Plassman) Mitchell. He was baptized at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, and was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon.

Don started working at Northwest News of Napoleon at 16 years old and then faithfully and bravely served in the Korean War in the United States Army, earning the Korean Service Ribbon, the UN Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, while attaining the rank of Sergeant. Upon returning to his hometown from Korea, he continued work as a typesetter at the newspaper. Following his work with the newspaper, Don started a career in law enforcement working for the Henry County Sheriff Department from 1961-1986, retiring as Chief Deputy. Following his retirement from law enforcement he enjoyed a number of years in retail, working in the paint department for The Anderson's in Maumee.

In addition to his career, Don spent much of his time enjoying his many hobbies, including furniture refinishing, collecting glassware and antiques, snow skiing, attending auctions and estate sales and reading fictional western books.

Don knew no strangers, and while he never married, he took great joy in

socializing and had an enormous circle of friends he met throughout his life that he loved to visit, right up until his passing. His faith was deep, and his smile and friendly demeanor reflected his love for others.

Don is survived by a nephew, David (Connie) Schnitkey; and nieces, Ann (Scott) Fritz, Sharon (Tom) Scovanner, and Carol (Andy) Small; as well as many great nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sister, Elizabeth "Liz" (Bill) Schnitkey; and brother, Ellsworth "Bud" (Florence) Mitchell; and nephews, Kenneth (Sue) Schnitkey and Kevin Schnitkey.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 24th at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Glenwood Avenue in Napoleon, where military honors will be held at the church immediately following the service. The service will be livestreamed at [stpaulnapoleon.org](http://stpaulnapoleon.org).

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to St. Paul Lutheran Church or The Wounded Warrior Project.

Online condolences may be made online at [www.rodenbergergray.com](http://www.rodenbergergray.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Cemetery

500 E. Maumee Ave  
Napoleon, OH 43545

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545

## Visitation

MAR **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1075 Glenwood Ave.  
Napoleon, OH 43545

## Funeral Service

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1075 Glenwood Ave.  
Napoleon, OH 43545



# Tribute Wall

TA

“ Knew Don for many years. He was one heck of a good guy. Rest in Peace old friend.

Tom Alexander - April 30, 2023 at 11:20 AM

SN

“ Donny was always such a nice man to our family and best friend of my late father in-law Leonard Norden. Donny had some good stories to tell from the good old days. He sure will be missed 💔. God bless you Donny R.I.P. our heart felt condolences to all family members.

Scott & Alessandra Norden - April 17, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ Don was a wonderful neighbor always willing to help our young family. My kids enjoyed him coming over to talk to them. We are grateful to have him as our neighbor even if was for a brief time.

Marissa Hergert - March 28, 2023 at 08:29 AM

GJ

“ We were so sorry to hear about Don. Prayers for all of you.

Glenn and Jayna - March 24, 2023 at 12:25 PM

KL

“ Dave and Connie, I worked with Don while I was at the Courthouse. So sorry to hear of his passing.



Kathy Lieb - March 23, 2023 at 09:59 PM

CH

“ Craig & Sue Hoffman : So sorry to hear our wonderful neighbor passed away he will be sadly missed. He was the best next door friend you could ask for. We moved in 16 years ago and Don introduced himself while our house was being built. We got to know Don as a friend right away when our mail was put in his mail box the third day we lived next to hi. He came over with our mail sat down and the friendship began. Since we retired we have been able to help each other and visit on a regular basis. He loved the peach and apple crisp Sue baked and I would take over. He would go by in his red truck make a loop at the end of the street and go back by our house to get his mail. And when it was nice out he would sit in the garage with the door up and read a book or newspaper and I would sometimes go over and sit and talk. Going to miss him.

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**Craig Hoffman** - March 23, 2023 at 07:36 PM

MP

“ Don was a very special man who will be missed by so many. My sympathies to his family and many, many friends who loved him dearly.

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**Mary Poore** - March 23, 2023 at 11:26 AM

GS

“ We were so sorry to hear of Dons passing. May God comfort you all during this time.

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**Glenn & Jayna Small** - March 22, 2023 at 05:43 PM

JS

“ *Dave, Connie and family; please accept our deepest condolences on Don’s passing. We will treasure our skiing memories with him, and other events.*  
*Jan and John Stover*

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**jan stover** - March 22, 2023 at 04:46 PM

NS

“ *Dave & Connie & family,*  
*You have our deepest sympathy. We have known Don for many years. Don’s dad sold honey to Eldor Sonnenberg’s & I knew him from Emanuel church. My father was Reim Eickhoff. Don & my Dad would walk up with the collection plates in church. He was a very faithful member. Again our Sympathies.*

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**Norbert & Linda Sonnenberg** - March 22, 2023 at 02:33 PM

JC

*My sympathy to Donnie’s Family. He was a sweet man and he will be missed by his Many friends and his Family.*

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**Judi cotter** - March 22, 2023 at 07:22 PM

MA

*Don has been my good friend since I first me him in 1996 when we started working together in the paint department at “The Anderson’s. Don and I started meeting for breakfast before work at Bob Evans (at the counter, where the cook always had his breakfast ready for him). For many years since then we would meet monthly for dinner...and in more recent years for lunch. He was so much fun, friendly, funny and I really enjoyed his company. He was the kindest, sweetest man and will miss him so dearly*  
*My condolences to his family, he spoke of you with such fondness*

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**Mary Anderson** - April 14, 2023 at 05:37 AM