



Donald Leland Watrous

July 5, 1928 - June 4, 2020

DONALD LELAND WATROUS, ASHEVILLE NC

Donald Leland Watrous, 91, son of the late Leon A. Watrous and Gladys Whiting Watrous of Cortland, NY, died on June 4, 2020 at the Givens Estates Health Center, Asheville NC.

Born July 5, 1928, Don graduated from Cortland High School and then went on to the Rochester Institute of Technology where he graduated in 1949 from a 3-year co-op technician program with General Electric (GE).

Don enjoyed a 44-year career with GE/Harris Semiconductor as an extraordinary research and development engineer. He was a lifelong community servant-leader, a great provider for his family, always logical, methodical, thoughtful, patient, and kind.

He was a prolific inventor for GE. His more than 50 U.S. patents give testimony to his having played a major role in helping GE utilize new emerging electronics technologies in a wide variety of global applications. He retired in 1993 in Clifton Park, NY and relocated to Asheville, NC to enjoy retirement at Givens Estates.

Don served his Givens Estate Community. He was a past President of the Givens Residents Council and served on both the Givens Board of Directors

and their Strategic Planning Committee. Don served his church as well. He was a member of the Central United Methodist Church of Asheville where he served as Chair of their Council on Ministries and he frequently taught Sunday school.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Hilda May Robison Watrous and an infant sister Barbara Watrous.

He is survived by his son, Jay Watrous (Sherry) and granddaughter, Alyssa Watrous of Rome, GA; his wife, Anne Garner Watrous of Asheville, NC; stepchildren, James Garner (Jennifer) of Mt. Prospect, IL, Andy Garner (Erika) of Bad Sauerbrunn, Austria and Julie Garner Wilson (Rob) of Decatur, GA; step grandchildren, Jordan Garner, Aaron Garner, Sophia Garner, and Connor Wilson.

As per his request, Don's cremated remains will be interred in the Hillington Cemetery, Morris, NY in the Robison Family Plot, adjacent to wife Hilda's urn. A Memorial service in Asheville will be scheduled at a later time.

Memorial Gifts should be directed to either Central UMC, 27 Church St, Asheville, NC 28801 for mission outreach or to Givens Estates, 2360 Sweeten Creek Rd, Asheville, NC 28803 to the Residents Supplemental Assistance Fund.

"My life has been incredibly blessed. Two very different and very special wives have helped me grow and have brought me immeasurable love, joy and happiness. Jay, Sherry and Alyssa, of whom I am very proud, I care about deeply. My step family has added unexpected richness to my life and brought with it much joy" God is good. Praise Him!" – Don Watrous, 2007

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Leland Watrous*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM

MB

“ Jay and family,
Please know that we are thinking of you and your family. Mr. Watrous was a prince of a man.

As the Resident Council President he led our Givens Estates residents through one of the most significant expansions in our organization's history. He was a wonderful and contributing member of our Board of Directors. He was involved with many things that enriched the life of our campus. He was part of the group of residents that developed the Volunteer Partner Agency Board. This became a model program for how communities like Givens Estates could reach out in support of the greater community. He loved the resident model railroading group and so much more.

We quickly think of your father as a humble and effective leader. Through his servant personality he was able to attract good people, and he quickly earned their confidence, respect, and loyalty. Mr. Watrous contributed immensely to our organization in just the way he lived his life. Your father was patient, kind, and generous in all our interactions.

Thank you, Jay, for being such an attentive son. I am confident that he placed a lot of trust in you.

You and your family are in our prayers.

*Mark Bailey
Givens Communities*

Mark Bailey - June 10, 2020 at 11:45 AM

GH

“ Jay was my first best friend as a freshman at Liverpool High School and I have only fond memories of his Mom and Dad.... Don hired Jay and I to paint the outside of his house. It took us seems like all summer and our pay when we got done was a used mini-bike he bought for us for \$80. Don got the better end of the deal, but we didn't care, it was awesome! His passing made me realize how precious some people are in our lives and the effect they can have on us. Don was gracious enough to "allow" our rock band to nurture our love for music and "make our noise" in his basement and then in the garage in the summer. That started a life long musical journey and career for me, and I owe it all to the grace and encouragement he showed us... Rest in Peace Don... Love, Gerry Hubbell

Gerry Hubbell - June 07, 2020 at 08:46 PM



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Morris Funeral Home - June 07, 2020 at 04:36 PM