



Donald Dean Zahorsky

February 9, 1930 - February 5, 2017

Funeral services for Donald Dean Zahorsky will be 10:30 am Monday, February 13, 2017, at the Marshall Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. William S. Kalfas officiating. Interment will be in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Donald Dean Zahorsky, son of the late David Fred and Edith Elizabeth (McCoy) Zahorsky, was born February 9, 1930, at Alva, Oklahoma, and passed away February 5, 2017, at the age of 86 years, 11 months, and 26 days.

Don graduated from Dacoma High School then enlisted in the United States Navy and served a tour in Korea and earned several service medals and was discharged in 1952. On May 12, 1954, he was united in marriage to Perilla "Pril" Becker at the Pleasant View Church near Dacoma. They bought a farm in 1954 and lived in Alva until they moved to the farm in 1972. He was a custom cutter for many years and ranched on their home place most of his life.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Pril; four brothers, David Jr., Roger, Darrell, and James.

Don is survived by his daughter, Sheri Snyder and husband, Jeffrey, of St.

Louis, Missouri; three brothers, Delbert Zahorsky of Enid; Stanley Zahorsky and wife, Jan, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Carroll Zahorsky of Leawood, Kansas; one sister, Marlene McLean and husband, Perry, of Overland Park, Missouri; other relatives and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Oklahoma Game Warden Association for the Youth Camp.

Cemetery Details

Alva Municipal Cemetery

Flynn Street
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall

SP

“ I believe I'm met Don 2016. We had plenty good conversations as I would dig across his property. He was a good man, let me hunt. Let me fish and picked up a bull to bred to my cows I had hoped to see him again I was up that way yesterday and rean out of time my friend how lives there sent this to me today 💔 just do know how time goes by Shawn pratt

Shawn Pratt - October 22, 2023 at 07:21 PM



“ Donald Dean Zahorsky

January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM

DB

“ I'm sorry I said Tammy. I meant Sheri. Dennis

dennis barnard - October 18, 2017 at 12:11 PM

DB

“ I cut wheat for Don when I was in college. I came from Illinois and worked all summer for him. It was a great experience for me and I have fond memories of Don and Prill. Tammy if you see this please call me at 217-520-4647. Dennis Barnard

dennis barnard - October 18, 2017 at 10:52 AM

JR

“ I have fond memories of Don. He was a wealth of information about family history. My husband enjoyed talking with him about agriculture and tractors. He gave much good advice. I miss Don. Cousin, Janice Reutter

janice reutter - March 18, 2017 at 04:11 PM

GD

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing. I worked for Don around 5 years from 1958 to 1963 and he was a very good boss and friend.

Gary Doty - February 14, 2017 at 01:32 PM

DS

“ Don cut wheat for my parents, and then for my wife and me, from the 1960's until he stopped making the harvest run in the 1990's. I still remember how impressive that fleet of silver combines and blue trucks was, especially when lined up straight as an arrow at the end of the day. He ran a top-notch operation, matched by only one other harvester that I have known (and that person started out working for Don).
But Don was more than a custom cutter, he was a lifelong friend and mentor who will be deeply missed. Godspeed Don.....

Doug Schmale

Doug Schmale - February 09, 2017 at 08:12 PM

PS

Don, as "young man" you were the toughest boss I ever had and to this day, you still hold that prestigious position. I spent 6 months working for you on harvest and thought you were a true S.O.B! I can't tell you the number of times you had me in tears, trapped in a foreign land with nowhere else to go. You tried to break me but you didn't. You made me stronger!

I'm so glad I got to talk to you later in life and thank you. Thank you for beating me up, metaphorically speaking and making a "Man" out of me. You taught me how to never give up, stand up for myself. Even though it didn't get me far with you, it prepared me for life with my ex wife! I remember so vividly our time harvesting on the "Gold Run", going North from Dacoma, OK. Through Chappel NE. up to Wright, WY. Then back down to Newcastle, TX. The year was about 1987, I was just 21 years old, an exchange student from England . I drove one combine, and Andy the other. Dale, John and Greg drove the trucks. I wonder if Dale ever married his girlfriend Melissa? I wrote a poem for him to her, "Dear Melissa, I really miss ya, how much I can not say..." . Yeah, you probably just rolled over! I remember John took us all to a Gentlemens club, at least that's what I think it was called and I don't think I've been right since! ;-)

Of course I remember Prill bringing us her sun tea that she made and sitting in your trailer eating supper after a hard days work. I still have the scar, more of a dent on my shin that I got from walking into the tongue of your trailer in the dark on the way to eat!

Then there was Jess, oh, Jess! The first day we worked cattle I looked down on the ground beside the cattle crush and asked you, "what kind of animal makes a turd like that?" Your reply, "That would be a Jess!". It was the biggest wad of Redman leaf tobacco I have, to this day ever seen!

I recall fixing up a barn with you and your brothers... Dave and Roger, was it? The whole harvest team worked on it.

Yes, I remember a puppy called Smokey too!

Don, you made me cry and you made me laugh but more importantly, you made me grow. A lot of who I am today was as a result of just 6 months with you, the rest is 2 kids and an ex wife! Today, because of you I am still a father that sees his kids after facing 5 years of allegations, Court hearings and having my kids taken from me. I never gave up fighting the lies, the injustice and pain; much like our harvest time together, LOL! The fight was worth it, just like our time together. I became strong, I began to learn the system that was against me and I began to use it against itself. My children have now lived with me for the last 5 years and visit their mom. The instigators of the attacks on

me get 1 hour supervised per month visits. I now also work with my attorney to help others in my situation. All of this would not have been possible without you!

I could write pages of what I remember about that 6 months of my life 33 years ago but I'm so please I was able to share some of the stories and my appreciation before you moved on to your new ranch. Perhaps we'll harvest again one day although burning the stubble won't be an issue where you're heading! (I'M KIDDING PEOPLE. This is between Don and me!) Don, you are a good man, you helped me be a good man and I am passing that on to my son and daughter.

Thanks for the memories I will carry to my last days on this earth. They are as strong today as 30 years ago!

Now, where did I put my keys? LOL (Don, that means Laughing Out Loud)

You were tough as nails and I love you for it!

*Thanks,
Paul Shepherd*

Paul Shepherd - March 15, 2020 at 07:19 PM

RG

“ *Don and my brother, Austin Veatch were good friends. In fact when they married, it was a double wedding. When my Mom, died, Don harvested my Dad's (Kenneth Veatch) wheat for him, an extremely kind thing to do. Rest in Peace, Don.*

Ramona Veatch Goodridge - February 08, 2017 at 09:12 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Dean Zahorsky.*



February 08, 2017 at 08:32 AM

ML

“ Sheri, we're so sorry for your lost. Don was one of my best friends, we were classmates and graduated together. He was a friend that I knew I could count on if I ever needed anything. When we came to Dacoma, my trip wasn't complete if I didn't get to visit with Don. I have many wonderful memories. If I can help you, Sheri, please let me know. I would consider it a privilege. Our hearts are aching with you.

Max and Loleta Leslie

Max and Loleta Leslie - February 07, 2017 at 08:28 PM

CP

“ Sorry for your loss.....my husband worked for him as a kid on harvest...he used to come in seense me at ampride when he got fuel...he will be missed...

Carl and karol parsons

Carl and karol parsons - February 07, 2017 at 06:26 PM

DS

“ Our sincere condolences in the passing of Don.

Dale & Vaughna Schmidt - February 07, 2017 at 08:03 AM