



# Donald L. Hecker

AUG 20, 1928 - JUL 26, 2018



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## **Donald L. Hecker**

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**B**ig Rapids - Dr. Donald L. Hecker, 89, of Big Rapids, passed away Thursday, July 26, 2018, after developing a sudden illness.

He was born August 20, 1928, in Mattoon, WI, the son of Merlin and Doris (Hare) Hecker. During his high school years, Don was an avid basketball player and fisherman, and following his graduation, he served our country as a Marine in the Korean War.

Don received his Doctorate Degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He then went on to become the vocational counselor and institutional studies officer at Ferris State University from 1958 until his retirement in 1985, and then most recently worked for the social security administration as a vocational expert.

Don was a man of strong character and strong opinions. He had a solid work ethic and demonstrated throughout his life his devotion towards his family. He firmly believed in the value of education and hard work, and carried these principals with him throughout his life. He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan, and never missed an opportunity to cheer his team on while wearing his infamous Packers sweatshirt. He enjoyed church, visiting with family, gardening, and, in his younger days, planting trees and running his farm. We think there may be a chance that he secretly authored the song "I Did It My Way", as that is truly how he lived his life. He will be deeply missed.

In 1956, Don married the love of his life, Rose, and together they enjoyed many happy years until her death in 2006. He is survived by four sons, Michael (Wendy) of VA, Nicholas (Heather) of CA, Christopher (Deb) of AZ, and Jonathon of Rochester; two daughters, Kathryn (Rick) McGee of NC and Cynthia (Tony) Ottobre of Big Rapids; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; five siblings; many nieces and nephews, and his special friend Nancy, who provided him with much love and



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companionship during his last few years.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated 11:00 a.m., Friday, August 10, 2018, at St. Paul's Campus Parish in Big Rapids, with Father Michael Burt officiating. Don's family will greet friends and colleagues at the church from 10:00 a.m. until time of service's.

Private interment will follow in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Don's name may be made to the St. Mary Parish, or simply give a hug to someone special in your life and enjoy your time with them today.



## Tribute Wall

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SK

**Susan And Dave Krug** posted:

What a beautiful obituary! A fitting tribute to a fine man and good neighbor. He will surely be missed.

August 1 at 8:00 PM

MQ

**Mary Quinn** posted:

Don was a good friend to me. I will be out of town during the services for him, but certainly will think of him at this time.

July 30 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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