



In Loving Memory Of
De Donald E. Leisey



Sept. 23, 1937

May 30, 2023





Dr. Donald E. Leisey, 85 of San Rafael, CA passed away peacefully on May 30, 2023.

Don was born September 23, 1937 to Alvin L. Leisey Sr. & E.

Marie Leidenberger Leisey in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania & was the youngest of 4 boys.

The family soon after moved to Honey Brook, a town nestled in the Amish Country of Pennsylvania, where he enjoyed a very small-town upbringing amongst his many Amish friends & neighbors.

After graduating High School, he attended West Chester University in Pennsylvania, where he received his B.S. in Education (1959).

He went on to obtain his Master's Degree from Villanova University (1962), & subsequently obtained a Certificate in School Business Administration (1972), as well as a Doctorate in Education,

both from The University of Southern California (USC) (1973).

It was in 1962 at the ripe age of just 24,

when he first became an elementary school principal in Pennsylvania.

He was the talk of the town; good looking, young, confident & single! But not for long. It was in 1964 that he met the fiery stewardess Patricia on a blind date.

It wasn't long before he proposed to her, & convinced her to come with him to live in Japan,

where he had just accepted a principal position with the US Department of Defense, at their Overseas Dependent Schools located on a US military base, just outside of Tokyo.

Don & Pat were married in Japan soon after arriving & cherished their time overseas & experience of Japanese culture.

A few years later, they returned & settled into California as their forever home.

Don was a School Administrator while in the LA area, & then went on to serve as Superintendent of San Rafael City Schools in Marin County.

He also instructed at Dominican College & Hayward State University during this time period. In 1981,

Don was ready to be his own Boss & purchased one small private school in Sacramento.

From there, he was unstoppable & really found his niche as an educator, able to make a difference & see the fruits of his labor. By 1989,

he had expanded Merryhill Country Schools into 22 locations throughout

Northern California, & then sold the business, with an enrollment of over 5000 students,

to a larger, publicly traded company. His visions of retirement were short lived, yet he did spend the next few years traveling to over 70 countries, & discovering a new love of golf, while he contemplated his next move.

Don has never been very good at sitting still; he was always at his best when his brain was actively working & in 1990,

he embarked on his next endeavor & entered into the educational retail market,

opening A+ The Report Card stores.

During this time period he co-founded The Academy for Educational Entrepreneurship, with his friend & partner Chuck Lavaroni;

the two also co-authored a book together, entitled The Educational Entrepreneur; Making a Difference.

Some of his greatest life fulfillment, came thru the roles he established or was appointed by various committees, educational boards, clubs & commissions in his field of expertise.

He was most proud of his appointment by Governor George Deukmejian to the California Child Care Commission.

Don appreciated his opportunities to travel the world, & often spoke of these memories as his fondest.

However, Lake Tahoe remained his favorite place on earth. His life was full;

he accomplished much; never forgot his roots; always stood on his principles; & fought hard till his dying day. His motto: Do Good; Work Hard; Have Fun!

Donald is survived by his wife of 64 years, Patricia, two daughters, Kristen Cauz (Steve) of Petaluma, CA, & Kendra Leisey of Las Vegas,

NV, 3 grandsons Nicklaus, Zackary, & Macallan, & 1 granddaughter Jaelyn. He was predeceased by both parents & his 3 brothers Alvin Leisey Jr.,

Melvin Leisey, & Robert Leisey.

