



## Donald Alan Thorson

September 13, 1935 - October 15, 2025

Donald Alan Thorson "Don", 90 of Deep Creek Lake, MD, passed away peacefully Wednesday, October 15th, 2025. He was surrounded by loved ones.

Don was born on September 13th, 1935, in Spring Grove, MN, son of the late Arnold and Della Thorson. Don met his wife Judy, while he served in the 64th Air Division of the US Air Force in St. John's NFLD. Upon leaving the Air Force, he built a remarkable career as a homebuilder and a respected and loved leader of people.

For more than four decades, he mentored countless young men and women, helping them grow into compassionate, capable leaders. His approach to leadership was rooted in kindness, respect, and trust-values he lived by and instilled in others. Don believed that to be a good manager, spouse, parent, or friend, one must first be a good person.

More important to him than any professional accomplishment was his love for his family and his friendly and kind approach to all. His warmth and gentle spirit touched everyone he met. There are few people in the world with the capacity to bring light and happiness to a room by simply being themselves and the grace through which they meet every person.

Don refused to end a conversation with his wife, his kids or his grandchildren without saying simply, "I love you, never forget that". I, your husband, your father, your grandfather...Pop, love you. He never allowed these words to fall without deep meaning. You felt his love in every word.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Owen, Jim and Steve Thorson, and grandson Donny Benjamin.

He leaves a lasting legacy to be cherished, and is survived by his wife of 69 years Judy Thorson, sisters Esther and husband Gary Roverud, Judy and husband Wally Klodnicki, son Jeffrey and wife Kelly Thorson of Tampa FL, daughter Penny and husband Richard Benjamin of Denver, CO, son Scott and wife Sondra Thorson of Davidson, NC and son Timothy and wife Chris Thorson of McKinney, TX. Grandchildren, Shane Thorson, Gregory and wife Kaitlin Benjamin, Parker and wife Amanda Thorson, Cody and wife Bethany Benjamin, Sierra Thorson and fiancée Andrew Spinnler, Alexandra Thorson and Nicholas Thorson, great grandchildren Elina Sky Thorson, Luke Carlson, Milo Benjamin, Thea Thorson and Oren Thorson.

A private celebration of life will be held by the family.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all the Hospice of Iredell County nurses, CNA's and staff, and the loving staff at Cadence of Mooresville for the unwavering compassionate and supportive care that was provided. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

We will miss you, our husband, our Dad, our Pop. We love you.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Garrett County, Inc. PO Box 271, Oakland, MD, 21550.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Thorson family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ It's been hard finding the strength to write about my father. He left an impact on me and everyone I know that lives on in every contact I have...with anyone. I feel like the earth has moved under my feet. My Dad was the solid foundation of rock in my life that protected me against anything. No matter what happened, I had my dad on my side, always. No matter where I was or what I was doing, he called to tell me he loved me, always. No matter how low I got, or how bad I messed up, he said we would get through it together. I keep thinking I can just pick up the phone to call him, or that there will be a call or voicemail from him to tell me these things. Not a few days went by when I didn't hear them, and no call or contact went by without those words and a hug. There is a space that can never be filled other than in my heart and my memory. Thank you, Dad. Sondra, Parker, Sierra and I will never ever forget you. We love you, no matter what, no matter where, just as you always told us, we just want you to know...we love you.

Scott

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Scott - November 10, 2025 at 04:03 PM

AW

“ Like others here have said, he was a wonderful human. He is my uncle, and I love him just because of that. I didn't realize it at the time (I was 7) but the JudyDons were really there for us when we were mourning our pop. He cut a wide swath through the world, and left a wonderful legacy that will live on. Cheers to my Uncle Don! ---- Pictures to come.

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Adam Wallingford - November 06, 2025 at 08:46 PM

JD

“ I have such wonderful memories of time spent in Myrtle Beach with Don and Judy.  
He was such a kind man and a beautiful friend to myself and to Hank. He will be missed by all who knew him.

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**jackie drenth** - October 30, 2025 at 06:19 PM

FB

“ Don was a high school classmate and a friend. I last spoke with him when planning our 70th class reunion in 2023. Sorry to learn of his passing thru my Noece Sharon who worked at the nursing home where Don's parents spent there last years. Loved you Don.

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**Fred Bergsrud** - October 27, 2025 at 12:48 PM

RC

“ Without a doubt the most generous, thoughtful and honorable individual I have ever been privileged to work with and call friend. He wasn't the boss but a caring guiding friend that made working for and with him a pleasure. On one of our adventures, we were playing golf in Florida discussing work, drinking beer (it was hot) and laughing (about Chris Tracey). He was the driver and I the rider enjoying the great companionship and surroundings and drinking beer when all of a sudden (without warning and by the way I have yet to see the golf ball coming at us from the green) he made a sharp 90 degree left turn rolling me out of the cart. Upon hitting the ground, I did a roll that would have scored 10 in any roll competition, came back up to a standing position and proudly announced not a drop of beer was spilled, we continued on enjoying each other's companionship, drinking beer and laughing. Don I will try to do my best so that when my time comes, I will be able to join you and we can play golf, drink beer and laugh again. Buddy, I love you dearly and miss you deeply!

*Rich Carcella*

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**Richard Carcella** - October 25, 2025 at 06:17 PM

JE

“ My Father, my role model, my mentor, my confidant. Irreplaceable. Keep talking to me please.....love you more than dirt.

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**Jeff** - October 22, 2025 at 08:26 PM

WP

“ So sorry to hear of Uncle Don's passing. Our condolences are with you and your family. Love Wayne and Eileen

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**Wayne Penney** - October 22, 2025 at 05:39 PM

CT

“ There are so many -- but I always loved when Don told stories of when he and Dick Tracey traveled for Ryan. Can't believe Judy and I let those guys leave town without supervision. Judy and Don hosted us when we were "house hunting" in Garrett County. Wednesday nights became a weekly dinner at Uno's and then a movie. So many memories that will be in my heart forever. Don will be so missed by us all.

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**Chris Tracey** - October 21, 2025 at 05:36 PM