



**Donald (Don) Leo Hughes of rural Bryant, Iowa. (1930 - 2017)**

Don was born in Brookfield Township, rural Elwood, on July 28, 1930, to Leo and Madeline (LaFayette) Hughes. He quickly learned the value of hard work by helping on the farm, as well as being employed to earn money to support the family. He graduated from Elwood High School in 1948. A hardworking, rugged man, Don loved being outdoors and working the land. He began farming when corn was picked by hand and workers walked behind teams of horses and oxen. As agriculture practices changed, he grew his business. He greatly enjoyed farming in the Bryant and Charlotte area his entire life. In addition to farming, for a short time Don owned a milk truck and drove 130 miles a day picking up milk cans. Truly industrious, he also lifted 25,000 pounds a day of lead pail molds while working in a foundry early in life. While working at Clinton Engines, he met the love of his life. Don married Linda Thiede on April 20, 1963, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sugar Creek, Iowa.

Both Don and Linda were strong supporters of education, and they graciously established an endowment fund for scholarships. Their generosity has helped many young people in Clinton and Jackson Counties to further their education.

The three most important things to Don were his faith, family, and farming. A man of conservative values, he was a firm believer in the United States Constitution and the true intent of our Founding Fathers. He was a member of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church, Sugar Creek. He served on St. Mary's Church Council and Cemetery Board and taught high school catechism for a number of years. An active member of the community, he was a member of the Goose Lake Lions Club, Preston Knights of Columbus, and Northeast School Board for 6 years in the 1970s. He greatly enjoyed following his children and grandchildren's activities, traveling, and playing cards. After losing his beloved wife of thirty-nine years, he relished traveling with his grandchildren who he lovingly referred to as his "little monsters" to Canada, South Dakota, Florida, Texas, and Colorado. He even tackled white water rafting at age eighty in Glacier National Park. One of the highlights of his life was seeing his beloved Cubs win the 2016 World Series. With twenty-seven year of sobriety, Don regularly attended AA meetings where he helped to mentor others. He will be greatly missed by Snoopy, his dog and constant companion.

Don is survived by a daughter, Jeanne (Marty) Seyller of Downers Grove, Illinois, and a son Greg (Robyn) Hughes of Charlotte, Iowa. His is also survived by three grandchildren, Haleigh, Nicolle and Cade Hughes, all graduates or student of Northeast.