



George Donald Nicely or "Don Stevens"

FEB 22, 1929 - SEP 7, 2018



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George Donald Nicely or “Don Stevens” is now reporting live from the afterlife. Early on the morning of September 7th Don signed off earth for the last time to catch his train onward to bigger and better stories. Anyone who knew him knew he was always ready with a joke, kind word, or song for the occasion. Don was born February 22nd 1929 as the only child of Tandy and Lucille Nicely. Living in Detroit Michigan, Don spoke fondly of riding the streetcar to concerts an introduction to a lifelong love and appreciation of music. Quickly growing out of his knickerbockers, Don moved to a military affiliated boarding school in Tennessee connected to Lee College. Don would go on to serve in both the Navy and Airforce. It was at Lee College however, that he would meet his “Girlie” the then Charlotte Virginia Patterson. They would be married when Don was 19 years old in 1948. A year later their first child Lyle Steven Nicely was born. Never to leave a child lonely, Don and Charlotte had Charleene Virginia Nicely three years later. Don would cement himself as an example for other fathers in love and devotion to his children. Don also excelled in his professional life with a thriving career in news with WHBQ Channel 13 in Memphis. As the intrepid Don Stevens, Don helped bring the civil rights movement to the living rooms of his neighbors. He loved his work and often commented that he couldn’t believe they paid for something he love so much. He was able to transition his skills in broadcasting to IMM (International Media Ministries). It was through the organization that he lived abroad for several years setting up broadcasting centers and ministering the word. Able to combine his love of music and love of God, Don was part of the Memphis Television Choir for over 20 years. In his final days Don listened fondly to the voices of the past, eyes closed, directing an unseen chorus. He is preceded by devoted friends as well as his beloved parents Tandy and Lucille Nicely. He is also preceded by his loving wife, his best friend, his “Girlie” Charlotte Virginia Nicely. He is survived by dedicated friends, his children of



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creation (Lyle and Charleene Nicely), children of choice (Barbara Watson, Ray Hill, and Dana Hill), Grandchildren (Sarah Beth Gallenberger, Sierra Nicely, and Orion Nicely).The family will receive relatives and friends on Monday, September 10 from 5-7pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Avenue in Memphis. The funeral will be on Tuesday, September 11 also at the funeral home at 2:30pm. The burial will immediately follow. Memorial contributions can be made the The Wounded Warriors Project.To view the tribute slideshow, please click here: <https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/QKS9CC78QD8ZX3ZH>



Tribute Wall

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SS

Sarah Scott posted:

Lyle and Charlene, When I think of what a superb boss your father was, I can only imagine that as a dad he was the absolute best – supportive, understanding, and above all, fun. He and I talked about you both the most recent time I spoke with him which was last year. Below is what I posted on my Facebook page along with the photo of our Q News Team (with thanks to Kathe for that image):
"Daddy Don should not be at the right edge of this photo but front and center. So like him though. He gave me the chance to be the first woman in Memphis to produce what was then the major (early evening) newscast, and he bumped me up the ladder as a producer before that each time he thought I was ready. As for teaching me to think in base 6, it hampered my ability to balance a checkbook, but I can still time a soundbite just by hearing it. When Don first took a chance on me by hiring me, he'd send me home to my hovel of an apt. with a stack of wire copy and instructions to rewrite for air. I was only one of many he nurtured. Don created a newsroom carpeted with easy humor in which we were family, not competitive adversaries, no matter how stressful the days got. I will be forever grateful for him and for how he showed up in my life at just the right time. We were all fortunate ones."May good memories of him and your sweet mother be always close in mind, Sarah

September 11 at 1:07 PM

KT

Kathe (Holbrook) Traynham posted:

Lyle and Charlene, How grateful I am for your dad's life and guidance. And I send you my sincere sympathy for such a loss as you must feel. I hope I told him enough how much he meant, how influential he was, how much I owed him. I treasure the Christmas program we narrated together at 1st Assembly as much as the 8 years he spent trying to turn me into a decent journalist. Your mother made beautiful keepsakes for me when my daughter was born, they came to Murfreesboro to visit me at my parents' home once, and years later Don arranged to stop nearby on one of his bus trips so Pete and I could meet him for breakfast here in the Washington, DC area. I would give a million dollars to see him once again pull up his socks, laugh, and exclaim, "Great day!" May God give you every comfort, and the assurance of his happiness at being reunited with your beautiful mother. I am grateful to have known them both.

September 8 at 3:02 PM

DH

Danny Hazelrig posted:

My condolences to Lyle and Charlene. He was a great man. I remember him when we were in scouts and how he helped out in so many ways. Be praying for all of the family.

September 8 at 2:03 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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