



## Donald "Don" K. Kiefer

October 10, 1950 - January 20, 2022

Donald "Don" K. Kiefer, 71 of Bluffton, passed away on Thursday morning, January 20, 2022, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born on October 10, 1950 in Bluffton to Woodrow W. & Lucille (Maddux) Kiefer. Don graduated from Bluffton High School with the class of 1969, and went to Golden Valley Lutheran College, where he received a scholarship to play college football. He worked for many years at Mix Mill and A.T. Ferrell in Bluffton, drove for Bluffton Metropolitan School District and Wabash Electric. Don loved to fish and hunt. He passed on this passion to his sons and grandchildren. Don was very active in the Wells County 4-H BB Gun & Rifle Club, where he served as an instructor since the mid 1980's. He also coached youth sports for many years.

On September 16, 1972, Don and Linda S. (Archbold) were married at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale, where Don was a longtime member. Survivors include his wife of almost 50 years, Linda of Bluffton and two sons; Eric (Angela) Kiefer of Bluffton and Kirk (Elizabeth) Kiefer of Corning, Ohio. He as a loving grandpa or know as PaPaw to 3 grandchildren; Alyssa, Kayla & Kole Kiefer.

Don is also survived by a sister, Celia Kiefer of Bluffton and 2 brothers; Rex Kiefer and Tom (LaVerne) Kiefer, both of California, sisters-in-law; Marilyn Kiefer and Rita Kiefer and a brother-in-law, Hargis Sizemore.

He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings; Fred Kiefer, Ronald Kiefer and Nina Sizemore.

A service to celebrate Don's life will take place at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday (January 25, 2022) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. The Public is invited to attend the funeral service but there will not be any visitation hours held before or after the service. You can also view the service from the comfort of your home utilizing a Zoom Meeting. You can log on after 10:15 A.M. on Tuesday and use the Zoom Meeting I.D. # 856 6794 4880.

The family prefers memorials be made in Don's memory to the Wells County 4-H BB Gun & Rifle Club instead of sending flowers or gifts. Donations can be mailed to the funeral home.

Don's arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JAN 25. 10:30 AM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald "Don" K. Kiefer*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - January 25, 2022 at 12:32 PM



“ *Donald "Don" K. Kiefer*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Linda, Eric, Kirk and Family*

*Rick and I were sad to hear of Don's passing. Please know your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Rick and Laura Gentis*

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**Laura Gentis** - January 28, 2022 at 09:45 AM



“ *Thinking of you all. God bless. Valerie Wilson Jackson*



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**Valerie Wilson Jackson** - January 26, 2022 at 02:53 PM

CH

“ Dear Linda, Eric, Kirk and family,  
Dan and I were so sorry to hear about Don.  
His gentle kindness will be so very missed at  
St Mark. God bless your family as you mourn  
the loss of your "Don".  
Love and Hugs to you all,  
Christine and Dan Hunt



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**Christine and Dan Hunt** - January 25, 2022 at 01:33 PM

JH

“ While I was not a young school mate of Don's and never had the privilege of hunting or fishing with him, I was a teammate of his in two sports and was always in awe of his abilities. I'll never forget our first meeting in a 1966 Youth league baseball game at Wilson Field. Fresh off a 1300-mile trip to my new home, I was summoned to pitch, and an imposing Don was one of the first batters I faced. I could tell this big guy would need an inside pitch to open up the plate. My curve ball never curved and Don did not move an inch, taking the pathetic pitch in the left shoulder. I'll never forget his expression as he pursed his lips and stared straight through me, apparently thinking, 'you knucklehead'.  
With a combination of power, speed and determination, plus a long stride that fooled many a pursuer, Don was the best running back I ever played with. In over 40 years of covering high school football I witnessed other excellent tailbacks, none I would take over Don.  
He was amazing as an athlete and a man.  
Jim Hopkins, Class of '69

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**Jim Hopkins** - January 25, 2022 at 11:25 AM



“ 71 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



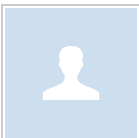
Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - January 24, 2022 at 05:07 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" K. Kiefer.



January 24, 2022 at 10:04 AM



“ *"The Old Rugged Cross 30" Rose Gold Sonnet Chime* was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" K. Kiefer.



January 24, 2022 at 09:45 AM

DP

“ Linda and family...you have our deepest sympathies. I cannot express how saddened we were to hear of Don's passing. He was a great guy and will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kiefer family.



Denny and Marsha Powell - January 23, 2022 at 10:39 PM

MR

“ Dear Kiefer family, So sorry for the loss of Don. I'll always have fond memories from our neighborhood friendships on Westgate Road in the 80's. Peace be with you all. -Mike Reynolds

Mike Reynolds - January 23, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" K. Kiefer.



January 23, 2022 at 10:26 AM

ML

“ So sorry for your loss, He was a wonderful man and a great example to the youth shooting sports. We will be praying for your family during these difficult days



Mark Maria Janell Jacob Lemler - January 22, 2022 at 11:24 PM

JJ

“ Worked with Don at A T Ferrell for a number of years. Don, Eric and I would go do a little rabbit hunting with my dogs every know and again. Don was a great guy and will be missed by all that knew him. Rest in piece my friend!!

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**Jason James** - January 22, 2022 at 08:25 PM

SF

“ Celia, I'm sending prayers of comfort and peace to you and the family during this difficult time. Sandy



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**Sandy Geist Funk** - January 22, 2022 at 07:01 PM

DJ

“ Linda and family,  
So sorry to hear of Don's passing - he was a very special man who shared a lot of his talents with us all. Will always remember how he took to all the 4-H ers in shooting sports and how he taught them safety first. What a truly special man and we will all miss him. We will keep the whole Kiefer family in our thoughts and prayers.

*Stan and Diane Johnson and family*

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**Diane Johnson** - January 22, 2022 at 05:18 PM

SJ

“ Deepest sympathies to the Kiefer family on Don's passing. May your many great memories sustain you in this trying time.

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**Sara Johnson** - January 22, 2022 at 10:31 AM

BH

“ Don was a great classmate and wonderful human. He was a very skilled athlete and is now enjoying his eternal salvation in Heaven. RIP Levi !!!

Bill Haecker - January 22, 2022 at 10:16 AM

CL

“ I did not know Don personally but i know his sister Cecila and am sorry to hear of his passing. May your memories of him be held dearly in your hearts forever.  
Carol Lochtefeld

Carol J Lochtefeld - January 22, 2022 at 10:15 AM

CE

“ Linda, and family, so very sorry for your loss. Linda, yiu and I worked at Peytons together, and I believe, one son is at Apache Propane. I knew Celia from church also. My condolences.

Carolyn Eltzroth - January 21, 2022 at 09:15 PM

JO

“ Sorry for your lost Don was my first bus driver he was a great bus driver he will be missed by so many

Jonathon - January 21, 2022 at 08:43 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald "Don" K. Kiefer.



January 21, 2022 at 05:07 PM

DG

“ So sorry to learn of Don’s passing. Don was a wonderful guy and a true outdoors man. He would volunteer his time helping the Optimists club with the fishing derby even tho he was not a member. Just a friend of Gregg Palmer and myself. He helped with 4H shooting sports probably for more than 25 yrs and getting ready for this season. We both worked for the city years ago. Don on the BFD and I on the BPD. Our wives were classmates. Don I know you are in Heaven catching those big ones so save a few for me buddy. The Kiefer family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom



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**Dan Gerdom** - January 21, 2022 at 10:41 AM

RH

“ Linda, Eric, Kirk & families. Our deepest love and sympathy to each of you. We’ve been friends for many years and will cherish our memories together forever!  
Arlin & Roxanne Heyerly. Amber Gearheart



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**Roxanne heyerly** - January 20, 2022 at 06:43 PM

SK

“ Kiefer Family: Sorry to hear of Don's passing. Don was my first school friend. We rode the bus together in the first grade. Although he went south and graduated from BHS, we remained friends throughout our lives. Since I've been gone I haven't seen him for years but I still have fond memories and I'm sure you have many more. RIP Don.

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**Steve Kunkel** - January 20, 2022 at 03:48 PM

ML

*So sorry for your loss Linda.*

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**Marilyn Langley** - January 21, 2022 at 06:43 PM

AL

“ *Alan Lutz lit a candle in memory of Donald  
"Don" K. Kiefer*



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**Alan Lutz** - January 20, 2022 at 03:09 PM