



## Donald Burdell Brurud

December 15, 1924 - February 4, 2025

On December 15, 1924 a blizzard commenced simply to further aggravate the arrival of Don Brurud into this world on the family homestead that was located 11 miles from the county seat of Canton, SD. Dons father, Oscar, 1st generation US Citizen of Norwegian homesteaders, had taken a team of draft horses to meet the doctor that would need a means to get his Model “T” through the mounting snow drifts. 100 years later on 4 February 2025, Don would leave this world with a century of contributions through faith, experiences, friendships, history, invention, leadership, parenting, and patriotism.

In 1929 (age 5), the depression hit and would set the stage of resilience and contributions from the “greatest generation” this world has ever seen. Don and those like him came from a different and wonderful mold.

By the age of 12, Don had broken out as a farm hand by managing cattle/hogs and driving/training 4-horse teams used in cultivating, planting and harvesting on the homestead. He was pulling a grown man’s weight by the age of 12. The John Deere Model B tractor also came on the scene which blended legacy farming with the new technology of the future. Don had one foot in the past and other foot in the future.

Upon graduating from Canton High School in 1942, he was drafted into the

US Navy for World War II. He served as an aircrewman in the Martin PBM flying boat as the Bombardier/Navigator for anti-submarine operations. He received an honorable discharge as a Second-Class Petty Officer in 1946.

Upon returning to the farm in South Dakota, Don found that the farm had electricity! Which ultimately led to lighting, running water, refrigeration, and heat! He was 21.

Don ultimately followed a Navy buddy and lifelong friend, Ken Gibson, back to Bartlesville, OK which had milder winters, world class quail hunting, a thriving cattle industry, and the finest quarter horses in the world. It was the perfect location for him to spend the rest of his life on his passions, performance horses and cattle. On a more practical level, it sure did help that a thriving oil company like Phillips 66 offered a livelihood to pursue one's passions. It was at Phillips 66 where he contributed 40 years to the marketing department crafting exchange deals with refiners. Additionally, in 1961 without any formal technical background, he has a patent on inventing a plastic motor oil container design that would not deform when using Phillips 66 Marlex plastic resin. It was a wildly successful and profitable container design for Phillips 66 and was utilized across many markets.

Don married Norma Galegar, from Avant, OK on December 24, 1948. Norma was a perfect mother, master chef, and 20+ year business administrator for the Jane Phillips Hospital in Bartlesville. She passed away in 2014, they were married 66 years. Their sons Clark and Brian were born and raised in Bartlesville, OK where they currently live today.

After retiring from Phillips 66 in 1986, Don found a genetic recipe for bloodline combinations that produced the finest specimen of performance and temperament in quarter horses of foundation breeding. He spent the next 15 years as a performance horse order buyer and breeder. He put many miles in

selling and transporting horses to markets in California, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. He was indeed living a dream!

Don was a consummate storyteller and loved sharing and receiving a well-crafted story. He loved the characters of the “Osage” as he was one of those characters! He had a warm welcoming smile, disarming charm and wit with an interesting mix of what-is-right with a big dose of determined will. He had the gift of thoughtful influence and guidance benefiting the lives of many. Those of us fortunate to call him dad, grandpa, or friend, all have seen how this American could convince you that you may just not be dreaming big enough or bold enough, and; do not find yourself as the limitation of accomplishing the impossible, and; In the end, if you found yourself successful in such efforts, you better give thanks to God because no one does great things without his help!

Don, you have plowed the northern plains behind horses, landed on a nuclear aircraft carrier and everything in between. You have lived a long and blessed life. We will miss you dad, grandpa, friend, neighbor and cowboy.

Don was preceded in death by his parents Oscar and Hazel, his sister Merlin Gabrielson and brother in-law Ray Gabrielson and his sister Beverly Frislie and brother in-law John Frislie.

Don is survived by his son's Clark Brurud and Brian Brurud of Bartlesville, Granddaughter Bailey Ingham and husband John Ingham of Denver, CO, and granddaughter Mallory Brurud of Denver, CO, and an amazing array of nieces and nephews that gave him great pride.

A graveside service will be held at 1 pm Monday, March 24th at Memorial Park Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Carter Davis and the

Davis Family Funeral Home and Crematory Walker-Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery Bartlesville

4200 Nowata Road  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 24. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery Bartlesville  
4200 Nowata Road  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ Just learned by accident about Don's passing. Ralph has so many fond memories of quail hunting with Don. He also found a good quarter horse for my dad. Our friendship grew even stronger when Brian and Mark played football together at Missouri Southern. We will have wonderful lasting memories of Don and his family and send our love and prayers. Carla and Ralph Bock

Carla and Ralph Bock - March 29, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Burdell Brurud.



March 22, 2025 at 09:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Burdell Brurud.

March 22, 2025 at 09:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Burdell Brurud.

March 22, 2025 at 01:52 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald Burdell Brurud.*



---

March 22, 2025 at 01:52 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Burdell Brurud.*



---

March 21, 2025 at 07:34 PM

JG

“ I was very saddened to hear of my Uncle Don's passing. I have many many fond memories of visiting him, Aunt Norma (Dew), Clark, Brian and my grandma over the years growing up. Hanging out with Uncle Don with my sister and my horses. He made sure that we had the best visits with the horses. I will for ever be grateful for the summers with him and going to the horse corrals. Him saying "ok Jennifer, Dinna has Sunshine (her horse), I am giving this one to you". That horse was the most beautiful think I had ever seen.. up to that point in my young life. That was definitely the summer highlight that year, best summer ever! We couldn't wait to get back to Oklahoma every other summer to go check on our horses with him. He had the best smile when he was out there with those horses. I don't know if it was because he was in his element or if it was his pure pleasure of seeing us girls so happy. Many great memories over the 4th of July, eating big slices of watermelon (bigger than us kids) and fireworks for days! I remember us letting off fireworks in my grandmas driveway, Uncle Don lived about 6 houses away so when we visited grandma, Uncle Don and Aunt Dew were just about a minutes walk away, anyhow, we were letting off fireworks a ground flower, it spun around and spun around like they do and all of a sudden it flew up into my grandma's tree, I don't think it ever came down. The collective "look out" from all the adults followed by a ton of laughter. Homemade ice cream, bar-b-ques and trips to the lake. My very last visit seeing him and Aunt Dew, my now 33 year old daughter was 4. I remember how he took her under his wing and tried to show her the same adventures as he did my sister and I growing up. Well best he could anyhow, he was a lot older! Aunt Dew made a point to take her to the Kiddie Park just like she used to take my sister and me with the neighbor girls. I will always cherish those memories with them. I wish you could have met all my kids, you would have loved them! Until we meet again, rest well Uncle Don, you've earned it.

Jennifer Galegar

Jennifer Galegar - March 06, 2025 at 10:20 PM

FG

“ Don, my beloved brother-in law, and I have shared numerous adventures together. I am the last of the Galegar family that he married into and as the "baby" of the family I was Don and Norma's "child" until Clark and Brian arrived. Don I'm sure had great aspirations for me to be a "cowboy", a dream he realized through his youngest son Brian. But until Clark and Brian arrived, I was the one who would do "cowboy and horse" things with Don. When I was six years old Don and I rode in a Pawhuska rodeo parade, as I remember he rode "Taffy" and I was aboard "Cherry", both were his horses. Later that day we rode in the rodeo "Grand Entry" which was different than today. We entered the area at full gallop and then serpentine until all had entered. My brand-new cowboy hat blew off my head and got trampled in the rodeo arena dirt. I learned then that cowboys do "cry". Another time when I was a teenager, Don, Clark and I were out doing cowboy things. At a point during the day Don and I lit up a "stogie". When we got back to the farm the first thing Clark said to my mother was "Grandma, Floyd and my dad were smoking Cigars". I could fill a book with our adventures; Don we'll all miss you as well as my children and grandkids.

Floyd Galegar

---

floyd galegar - March 06, 2025 at 04:55 PM

DB

“ Mr Brurud "The Old Man" knew more about horses than anybody I knew. He was a tough negotiator no matter what it was we dealt with. He talked highly of my grandmother and who was quite older than him. I'm sure they talked horses some .being on Dave Ware corner. I really enjoyed the the day he set my brother straight by referring to him as a group of people that ran scrap yards in the Dakota's.Ha! We laugh about it just mentioned. Yep. What a hoss The Old Man" still some those bloodlines running these hills out here.

---

**Dean Boy** - February 20, 2025 at 02:53 AM

DB

I encourage everyone who reads this to watch "The Old Man" AQHA. YOUTUBE.

---

**Dean Boy** - February 20, 2025 at 03:26 AM

WT

“ Don was an Intelligent Chemical Engineer for Phillips 66 that just happened to have 2 fine sons; Brian & Clark. Liz Teel & I, Woody, enjoyed Birthday Celebrations with Don, Family & Friends for the last 15 yrs. Don was a devout Lutheran. Don Brurud loved Football Games. He loved eating out @ Tumbleweeds Restaurant & Blueberry Pie @ Copan Restaurant with Clark & Woody. May he RIP in Heaven with his wife! Woody Teel

---

**Woody Teel** - February 14, 2025 at 08:13 PM