



## Donald Eugene Reichert

May 4, 1930 - September 26, 2016

Don Reichert, long time automobile dealer in Wenatchee, passed away peacefully on Sept. 27th from complications of the Alzheimer's Dementia disease.

Donald Eugene was born on May 4, 1930 to Alvin and Ada Reichert of New Leipzig, North Dakota. He spent his youth living in both Tacoma, Washington and North Dakota where he loved working on the family farm. He graduated from Kapowsin High School in 1948, and then joined the Marine Corp Reserves where he served until 1951 in The Korean War. Upon returning home, he married Florine McCoy, the mother of his two boys: Donald Steven Reichert born in 1954, and Douglas Richard Reichert born in 1956.

Don started his automobile career in Olympia, WA with Dick Lewis Pontiac/Cadillac. After moving to Wenatchee, he acquired the Datsun franchise in 1968, which is now known as Nissan, and operated this dealership for 40 years. Over the years, he also owned the Lincoln Mercury, Isuzu, and the Toyota franchises. Don was married to Carol Sanderson for 17 years until 1975. In 1981, Don married Jane Gilmer.

Don was dedicated to two things: His church and the automobile industry. He was known nationwide for his work in the industry, serving for many years on the Nissan Advisory Council and the American International Automobile Dealer Association, he was chairman in 1994. Most recently, he served for 16 years on the Federated Insurance Board of Directors representing the auto industry until 2013.

During his career he was recognized many times for his service and business success. He was named AIADA's " Dealer of Distinction", and received the prestigious "All Star Dealer Award". Don was chosen Washington State Auto Dealer of the Year and also won the coveted Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

In 1999, Don was the founding Chairman for a new local bank, NCW Community Bank. He was a 40-year member of Downtown Rotary, serving as their President in 1999. He was both a Paul Scea and Paul Harris Fellow. He was honored as an "Outstanding Friend of Wenatchee Valley College" and truly lived the Rotary's motto: "Service above Self".

During their 35 years of marriage, Don and Jane enjoyed traveling the world and spending time at their vacation home on Lake Chelan.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and son, "Donny". He is survived by his wife, Jane; son, Doug, Thornton, WV; sister, Verna Passmore, Tacoma, WA; three granddaughters, Lacey Antoni, Beaverton, OR, Brianna Reichert, Stillwater OK, Angela Galanti, Vancouver, WA, and four great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the First United Methodist Church, 941 Washington St, Wenatchee, WA 98801, Confluence Health Foundation, Alzheimer's Association, or charity of your choice. You are invited to view his online guestbook at [www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com](http://www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com) . Services will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2016, 1:00 pm Graveside interment with Military Honors at Wenatchee Cemetery followed by Memorial Services, 3:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, Wenatchee. Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ I grieve with you at the loss of my close friend of so many years. I wish that we could have been closer in these later years. Thank you for caring so much for him. If I can lend an ear to listen, or a shoulder to cry on, or to engage in conversation that will allow us to remember happier times...and laugh about Don's and my escapades, let me know. I live just a few blocks from your home on Castlerock. A walk and talk perhaps? 509.664.6204. I too am single again. I am living in the largest, nicest condo in the valley. But it seems empty. My best to you always.

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**Gary Montague** - October 17, 2016 at 03:08 AM

MP

“ Aunt Jane,

*So sorry to hear about my uncle Donald's passing.  
He was a good man and I greatly respected him.*

*Fond memories too, like Donald teaching me how to smoke cigars  
when i was just a young boy :):)*

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**Monte Passmore** - October 05, 2016 at 06:19 PM

RF

“ Jane, I just heard from my family in Wenatchee. I'm sorry to hear about Don. My "brief" marriage to Doug and did not get to know him well.

*I wish you well...*

*Rebecca( Becky)*

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**rebecca fraley** - October 04, 2016 at 05:08 PM

JR

“ Thank you Don for a wonderful life!



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**Jane Reichert** - September 30, 2016 at 05:07 PM

JR

“ Thank you Don for a wonderful life!



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**Jane Reichert** - September 30, 2016 at 05:07 PM

JR

“ Jane, we're sorry to hear we've lost Don. He's been a wonderful friend to Karen and me, a fellow member of our church and Wenatchee Rotary, a leader in auto dealership organizations and a generous philanthropist for the community. Our prayers are with you in transitioning from a dedicated care giver to abruptly giving up your best friend.

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**Jim Russell** - September 30, 2016 at 08:45 AM

RF

“ Jane, so sorry to hear about Don...what a caring and loving wife you were to Don.

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**Ruth A Fisher** - September 29, 2016 at 08:06 PM