



Donald Edward Littlejohn

April 23, 2010

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September 16, 1921 — April 23, 2010

Donald E. Littlejohn died early on April 23, 2010 in his home in Eureka. He was born to Bessie M. McCarty Littlejohn and Adrian Littlejohn on September 16, 1921 in Pinkstaff, Illinois. He was reared by his mother and his wonderful grandfather, Clifford H. McCarty, along with his uncle, Hugh McCarty. His grandfather loved him as a third son.

Mr. Littlejohn's body is going to the Illinois Anatomical Gifts Association. His memorial service will be at 4:00 p.m. May 8, at Becker Auditorium, the Cerf Center, at Eureka College. There will be opportunity to greet the family after the service. Memorial gifts in his memory may be given to Eureka College to establish a memorial fund. Income from the fund will provide financial support to outreach service projects by Eureka College students as planned and supervised by the Eureka College Chaplain. At any time the fund is not being used, it will support the Durward Sandifer Fellowships. Argo-Ruestman-Harris Funeral Home in Eureka is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.ruestmanharrisfuneralhome.com.

Donald married Jean Maxted on August 8, 1942 at Oceanport, New Jersey. She died in February, 1964. He then married Juanita D. Johnson on August 15, 1964, in the Carlock Christian Church. She died on December 24, 2003. He was preceded in death by his son Frederick Hugh Littlejohn, and by his step-son Michael L. Johnson.

Mr. Littlejohn is survived by his daughter Karen Littlejohn (Gerald Kopache), his son Patrick (Lynn Liston), his daughter Kathleen Hughes (Charles), his son Norm, and his daughter Janet Littlejohn (Joe Rambo). He is also survived by his step-son Jay Johnson (Chris). Also surviving are two much-beloved daughters-in-law, Minta Colburn (Steve), and Margo Johnson (Greg Vandenburg); and a much-beloved son-in-law David Hermetet (Sarah). He leaves six granddaughters, three grandsons, and twelve great grandchildren.

He also leaves a wide legacy of former students and colleagues who remember him very fondly and still appreciate his contributions to their lives.

Donald graduated from Lawrenceville High School and Eureka College. While at Eureka, he was involved in forensics, choir, quartet, operettas, plays, student government, Pi Kappa Delta, and Alpha Epsilon Sigma. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1948. In 1955, he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary.

Don served his country in WWII from 1942 to 1945 in the Army Signal Corps and achieved the rank of Technician 5th Grade. He was in England for more than three years, attached to the 8th Air Force. Upon his return in 1946, he began his ministry in Decatur, IL, later serving in Gerlaw, IL, Bellevue, KY, and Dixon IL. From 1957 to 1964, he was Director of Church Relations and Development at Eureka College. His final formal pastorate was at Carlock, IL from 1964 to 1966, during which time he was teaching 8th grade in Sunnyland, IL and completing a Master of Arts in Speech at Bradley University.

In 1965, Don returned to Eureka College as Professor of Speech and Director of Forensics. In that capacity, he was instrumental in developing the Speech and Theater major at Eureka. Don served as chair of the Humanities Division for several years before he was appointed Registrar of the college. He was later appointed as an Assistant Dean in addition to his Registrar duties. Don retired in 1987. He was awarded the Alumni Award of Merit by Eureka College in 2001.

Don devoted his life to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He proudly served and represented his church both personally and for Eureka College. He served as an elder and choir member for many years at Eureka Christian Church, and led the Shalom Committee. He provided pastoral care for many church members during this time, and filled in several times when a minister was gone for periods of time. Don served as a youth work leader for many years for the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, and he served on the regional Social Concerns Committee. During his tenure at Eureka College, Don served extended week-end interim ministries for churches in Colfax, Flanagan, Long Point, Walnut Creek, New Bedford, Henry and Washburn. Don served most of the Disciples churches in Illinois while he was employed by the college, serving one Sunday at a time when a minister was away, usually taking one or more of his children with him.

Don was always active in his community. In Dixon, he had a weekly radio program "Religion in the News." In Eureka, he was Campaign Chair for Eureka United Way and he volunteered for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Heart House, the local homeless shelter. His service for Woodford County Meals on Wheels was long and

dedicated. He became very attached to the people he brought meals to. He served two terms as President of the Eureka Ministerial Association, and from that position was instrumental in founding Woodford County Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP), in 1990-91.

Don's concern and energy have also been directed toward the larger world. He maintained memberships in NAACP, ACLU, Common Cause, and Disciples Peace Fellowship, among many other human rights, ecology, and peace and justice organizations. He was a member and active letter writer for Amnesty International for thirty years.

Don and Juanita loved traveling around the Continental United States to see their widely spread family members. They drove many times to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, as well as driving the AICan highway. They also went with a church group on a trip to the former Soviet Union, following up with many informative programs for churches and community organizations. He believed very strongly in the commonalities among all people.

Donald has expressed special appreciation for the many teachers who nurtured him throughout his life, from the one-room school at Pinkstaff through professors at Bradley University. He also had deep appreciation for his extended family in Southern Illinois who nurtured him throughout his childhood and youth. He cherished the help and affection of many good friends over the years, with special appreciation to Dr. James Riley, Bill Major, Clarence Noe, and Dr. Ira Langston. Donald greatly appreciated the visits and prayers with Don Zumwalt and other area pastors. Finally, he has appreciated the fine medical care he has received recently from Dr. Chris Hughes, Dr. John Kugler, and many other doctors, nurses, technicians, and hospice workers.

In his own words: "I believe that we are meant to be free, and if free, to live as responsible beings! I believe all are called to respect and defend the dignity, the integrity and the freedom of others, regardless of their nation, their clan, their class, or their location. I believe that this cannot be achieved without respecting and defending the whole of Creation, and its creatures, which we all say God has given to us."