



Donald (Don) Gene Blecha

September 25, 1941 - February 11, 2024

OSMOND - Services for Donald (Don) Gene Blecha, 82, of Osmond will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 17, 2024 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Osmond, Nebraska. Officiating the service will be Father Kevin Vogel and Deacons Doug Tunink and Roger Polt. Interment will take place at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, rural Pierce, NE. A visitation will be held from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024 also at the church with a 7:00 p.m. Rosary Service to follow the visitation. Don died on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at his residence in Osmond, Nebraska. Stonacek Memorial Chapel in Osmond is in charge of the arrangements.

Don was born September 25, 1941, at the Pawnee City Hospital to Charlie and Julia (Vrtiska) Blecha. The family lived on a farm near Violet, Nebraska until 1946 at which time they moved to Pawnee City and Don attended all grades at Pawnee City Schools. Don was involved with 4H, FFA, baseball, and basketball during high school. Some of his proudest achievements were earning Grand Champion Dairy Cow honors in 1958 and being the leading scorer on the basketball team his senior year. Don graduated from Pawnee City High School in 1959. After graduation, Don attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management. He started employment at the Nebraska Games and Parks Office in the Fisheries Division where he worked for three years. Don decided to return to college for one year to earn his teaching certificate after which he

then accepted a teaching position with Osmond Community Schools.

When Don moved to Osmond in 1965, he met Bernice Herbolzheimer when renting the apartment below the Osmond Republican where she worked. Don joined the catholic church in 1966 and married Bernice on June 29 that year at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierce. The couple rented a house until 1967 when they built their family home in Osmond. Don continued teaching at Osmond until 1970. Over the next 37 years he worked as a draftsman at Vulcraft, teaching in Randolph, establishing his own construction company known as DGB Construction, store manager at Osmond Farm Supply Hardware Store, working at Lind-Gubbels, and returning to teaching in Plainview where he worked for 20 years until his retirement. During his various teaching assignments, he taught courses in vocational agriculture, science, industrial technology, computer aided drafting, coached junior high girls' sports, and served as Senior Class Sponsor in Osmond and Junior Class sponsor in Plainview.

Outside of work, Don participated in many organizations and committees including Pierce County Fair Board, Scout Master, Osmond City Park Board, Jay-Cees, Osmond Community Club, and Pierce County Weed Board. He was a member of St. Mary's parish and collaborated with his wife and others to decorate the church for special occasions and holidays; served on St. Mary's School Board and as communion minister; and occasionally assisted with repairs and maintenance of the church facilities. Although Don preferred to be an unsung contributor to celebrations and events, he was recognized for his commitment to community efforts as an Osmond Outstanding Citizen, Plainview Outstanding Teacher, Pierce County Fair Outstanding Member, and Aksarben Good Neighbor.

Survivors include his son and wife Joseph and Debra (Braker) Blecha of Lenexa, KS; daughter and husband LaDonna and Raymond Rowden of

Sherman, IL; and son and wife Terrence and Christine (Jaderston) Blecha of Rapid City, SD; seven grandchildren; brother David Blecha of Waterloo, IA; and sister Frances Taylor of Azle, TX. Don was preceded in death by his parents; wife Bernice; and granddaughter Grace Blecha.

The family asks that donations be sent to Make-A-Wish South Dakota and Montana, 1400 W. 17th St. Sioux Falls, SD. 57104. Or you can visit the website at wish.org/sdmt (<http://wish.org/.sdmt>).

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery - Rural Pierce

Rural Pierce
Pierce, NE 68767

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church- Osmond
509 N. Hill St.
Osmond, NE 68765

Rosary Service

FEB 16. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church- Osmond
509 N. Hill St.
Osmond, NE 68765

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church- Osmond
509 N. Hill St.
Osmond, NE 68765

Tribute Wall

AS

“ *Rest in Peace, Mr. Blecha. OHS Class of 1970*



Ann Steckelberg - February 16, 2024 at 06:05 PM

BC

“ *Beemer Construction purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald (Don) Gene Blecha.*



Beemer Construction - February 16, 2024 at 11:03 AM

BS

“ *:(Very Nice Man! Never had him as a teacher though. Condolences to the family!*

Brian J Schlote - February 16, 2024 at 10:07 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald (Don) Gene Blecha.*



February 16, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald (Don) Gene Blecha.



February 13, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ Your Turner Accounting Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald (Don) Gene Blecha.

Your Turner Accounting Family - February 13, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ Love, Jesse and Joni Nelson and kids purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Donald (Don) Gene Blecha.



Love, Jesse and Joni Nelson and kids - February 13, 2024 at 11:36 AM