



## Donald L. Sweger Sr.

February 10, 1937 - March 19, 2026

Donald Leslie Sweger, born February 10, 1937, passed away on March 19, 2026, at

Premiere Perry Village Nursing Home in New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Landisburg, PA, Donald was the second youngest child of Russell

Sweger, Sr. and Mary E. (Saylor) Sweger, and the last of his siblings to pass.

He is

survived by his children: Anita L. Elder of Seattle, WA; Donald L. Sweger, Jr. of New

Bloomfield, PA; Michael T. Sweger of Barboursville, VA; and William Diamond Sweger of Palmyra, PA; as well as seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Although Donald completed only an eighth-grade education, he possessed remarkable

skill and resourcefulness. He worked confidently with his hands—repairing automobiles,

wiring and plumbing homes, and maintaining complex machinery in aluminum manufacturing plants. In the early years of raising his family, he also ran a small farm

with crops, pigs, chickens, a cow, and geese.

As a young man, Don—often called Donnie or Swig—was strong as a bull. He was

known for wrestling men twice his size and pinning them with ease. His strength and protectiveness showed in other ways too: once, when he caught a peeping Tom looking through the bathroom window, he confronted the man and subdued him so thoroughly that the sheriff was astonished when he arrived.

Despite his toughness, Donnie also had a playful side. He was a good sport who let his family dress him up in silly costumes, laughing along with the fun. Even in difficult times, Donald ensured his family had food on the table and clothes for school. He was an avid hunter who often brought home venison and other game to help feed his household. Family vacations were spent at lakes and mountain cabins across Pennsylvania, creating memories his children still cherish.

#### Work History

- 1955–1957

Knouse Foods, unloading boxes of Lucky Leaf canned products.

- 1957–1991 — Mechanicsburg, PA

Capitol Products, beginning in Remelt and later becoming the company's top maintenance technician, responsible for keeping the plant's machinery running.

- 1991-until retirement

Pennex – Maintenance technician

In his later years, Donald lived independently in Dover, PA, where he tended a vegetable garden and became known among neighbors for his homemade sauerkraut—always eager to share jars with friends. He took pride in helping others and

enjoyed the simple satisfaction of doing things with his own hands.

A memorial gathering near his gravesite will be held at a future date. His headstone is

shared with his wife, Katie, at the cemetery located at Big Rock Drive, in Dover, PA.

Memorial donations may be made to The American Diabetes Association in Don's name.

<https://tour.diabetes.org/participants/SeaAnita>

The Boyer Family is honored to handle the arrangements for the the Sweger Family.

# Tribute Wall

RS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Rhonda Sweger - March 26 at 08:45 AM



“ During last Friday's weekly visitation at Perry Village with Buddy, my golden retriever, I learned of Donald's passing. So sorry for your family's loss. Buddy and I have only known Donald for a few months, but we visited him regularly. Donald was always happy to see Buddy and he spent time petting, hugging and talking to him and even kissing his head. Donald was a member of the Buddy fan club. Buddy and I were blessed to have known Donald even for just a short time. Glenys DiLissio and Buddy

Glenys DiLissio - March 25 at 08:38 AM

AE

“Daddy loved to hunt, but he could never find a turkey to shoot during hunting season. Sometime after I left home after high school, he found a nest of dead baby turkeys save one, which he took home. He planned to raise it and then kill it so he could eat it for Thanksgiving. That turkey became a pet that terrorized his hunting dogs and had the chickens following it around like it was their king. He never could kill that darn bird.

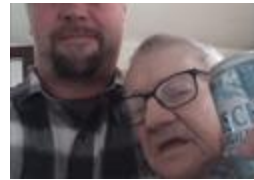
Another time he went bear hunting. He saw one and shot at it, but it ran off, dripping blood as it ran. Dad tracked it and peered under a pine tree. Seeing the bear's big eyes staring back at him gave him a fright. He shot it again once he gained his composure. I was one of the lucky ones to get a bear roast that was delicious! He had the hide and head made into a rug that he displayed on the wall of his hours. It now lives with his son, Donnie.

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Anita L Elder - March 23 at 06:46 PM

BF

“Gonna miss you Uncle Don. This hits hard. I'll always remember my visits with you and your warm smile. Rest easy, I'll see you again someday. ❤️



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Brenda Sweger Fry - March 23 at 05:16 PM

JS

“ Uncle Don will be missed and forever in our hearts! When I was pretty young with my parents we went to visit Uncle Don at Christmas time, he gave me deer bologna and I've been hooked ever since. Often when I eat deer bologna I think of that moment.



JOHN SWEGER - March 23 at 03:41 AM

AE

I'm so glad I got to meet you last June, John! Great photo! Contact me for the memorial info.

Anita L Elder - March 23 at 06:47 PM

EV

“ Pap -- we had so much fun just picking you up for holidays to go to Joe and Maggie's. Laughing the whole ride there. But now you are beautiful, healthy and happy! You give my Love and a big hug for me. He also is beautiful, healthy and happy right with you! Love you Pap❤️

Evonne - March 22 at 02:42 PM

MW

“ We will miss you so much pap on all of our holiday dinners.you were the star.We are so sorry for your loss Sweger family.We loved him so much and he gave us many laughs



Margaret Wert - March 22 at 12:15 PM

RS

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Rhonda Sweger - March 21 at 02:16 PM

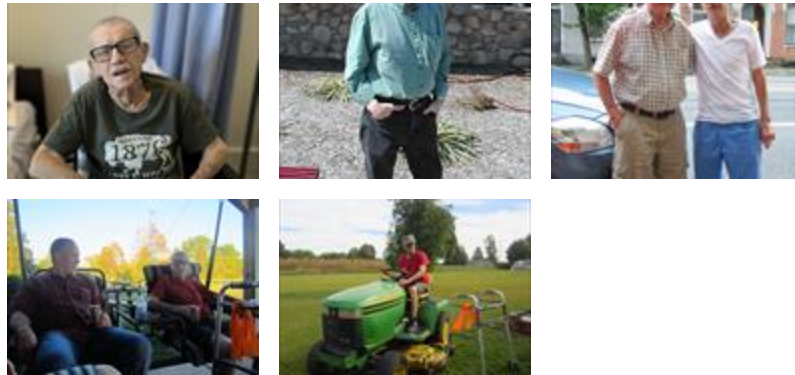
AE

*Rhonda, you took exceptional care of daddy these past six months or so! He didn't have time to be bored or depressed with you around. Love you so much!*

Anita L Elder - March 22 at 03:12 PM

AE

“ 26 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Anita L Elder - March 21 at 12:40 PM

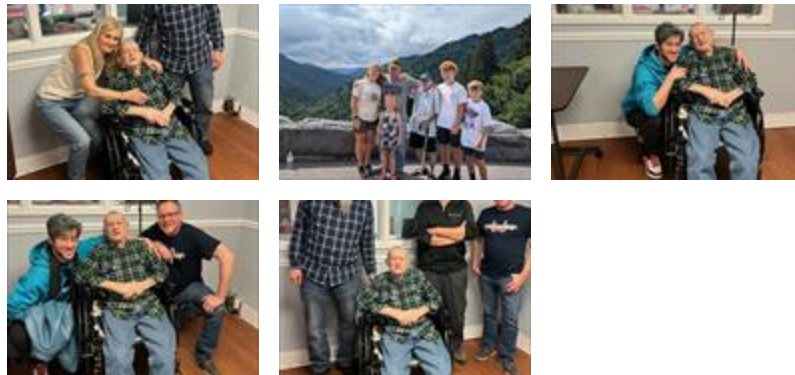
RS

“ *Ole paparoni, I will miss you,with every breath,and cell in my body,you made me laugh and was our light! I love you!if you happen to run into momma,give her a hug and kiss for me!  
Rest now daddy!*

Rhonda Sweger - March 21 at 12:20 PM



“ *8 files added to the tribute wall*



Cyndi Sweger - March 20 at 10:31 PM

AE

“ *1 file added to the album Early Life*



Anita L Elder - March 20 at 09:21 PM

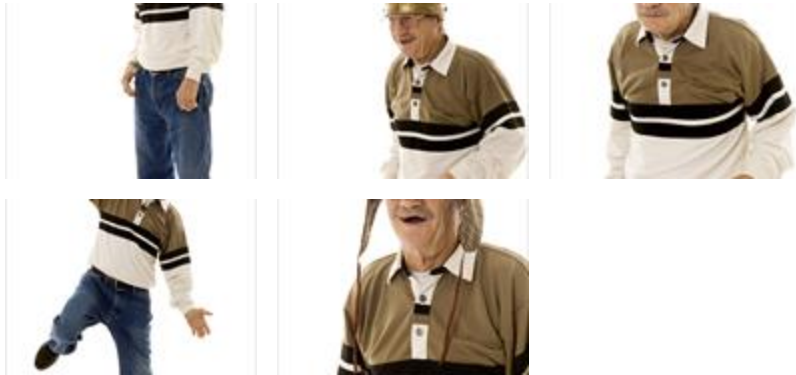
JS

*Great idea, I really enjoyed the video about our family history.  
- John Sweger*

JOHN SWEGER - March 23 at 01:22 AM

AE

“ 6 files added to the album Silly Don



Anita L Elder - March 20 at 09:21 PM