



Donald Lee Kimmins

May 7, 1926 - May 1, 2018

Donald Lee Kimmins, 91, of Jefferson City, passed away on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. He was a U.S. Navy WW2 veteran, with combat service during the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Lawther Kimmins; son, Daniel Kimmins of Jefferson City, TN; daughter, Kathleen Harmon of Orange City, FL. He is survived by his daughter, Kimberly (David) Ford of Savannah, GA, Jennie (George) Silk of Lake Worth, FL, Mary (Matt) Sigeas of Morristown, TN; son, Mark (Sandee) Kimmins of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL; 13 grand children; 14 great-grandchildren; brother, Richard Kimmins of London, TN; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Appalachian Outreach, 190 W. Old Andrew Johnson Hwy, Jefferson City, TN 37760.

Memorial service 7:00 PM Friday, May 4, 2018 at Jefferson City Christian Church with Rev. Bob Emmert officiating. Arrangements by Fielden Funeral Home in New Market.

Tribute Wall

KA

“ The day I met Don was the one of the best days of my life.

I had just moved to TN a few weeks prior. I remember sneaking out to my mailbox in my extremely old moo moo style pajamas, carefully making sure that no one was outside to see me. I was so used to people judging me based on what I wore. I had a new baby and had gained a lot of weight and didn't have the money to buy nice clothes that fit.

As I reached my driveway, Don opened his door and stepped out to get his mail. I thought, "Oh great. Now my new neighbor is going to think I am a slob."

We met at the mailbox and casually introduced ourselves. To my surprise, Don didn't even notice my "moo moo" or my unbrushed hair. Instead, he told me that he had seen my children and that he thought I had a beautiful family and that we were very blessed.

A few days prior, there was an ambulance at his house. I said to him, "I seen that you needed an ambulance the other day. I was worried and hoped that you were alright."

He responded, "Oh hunny, don't you ever worry about me. My wife died of cancer years ago and I miss her dearly. I am ready to see her. Don't cry tears over me because I am going to be right where I want to be"

Then, he pulled his wife's picture out of his wallet and showed it to me. I will NEVER forget that day.

Throughout the next few years he became the best friend I never had. I shared all my problems with him and he gave me the best advice.

He would tell me all about his family. He told me about his wife's famous Chocolate Cake (she would sift the flour twice) and how it

was the most delicious thing he has ever tasted. I always wanted to make him a Chocolate Cake, but I knew it would never be as good as his wife's cakes. So I made him deer chili instead and he thought it was amazing.

As his health started to get worse, we would talk about it. He never complained about his health to me though. To this day I don't know how he held it together. He had sermon videos that we would watch and even though he was experiencing things like blindness, he wanted to make sure that I was filled with the Holy Spirit.

During his last week here on Earth, I visited him after not seeing him for a few months. I was overwhelmed with how much he had changed. I remembered his words when we first met and tried to hold back tears. But I couldn't.

Not to my surprise, Don reached his hand over to me and told me that he loved my tears, and that those tears meant that I care. He told me to continue to, "let my light shine" and keep my eyes on the Spirit.

I don't know how a person can be so selfless. I miss him so much.

I've always wanted to tell his family how much he meant to me, but couldn't seem to get the words out enough for them to understand through my sobbing. Now, almost a year has gone by since he entered Heaven and here I am at Midnight writing this tribute still full of tears because of the unusual love this man has shown me.

To his children: I am so grateful for the time I had with your father. Thank you for sharing him with me.

Thank you for allowing me to write this tribute.

Kayla - March 24, 2019 at 11:57 PM

VB

Hi. My name is Vicki and I'm Don's Niece. I'm so happy you and he were friends. He is missed by his family. Thank you for posting this. He was a great Uncle to me and loved by all who knew him.

Vicki Brown - May 17, 2019 at 07:53 PM