



Donald Paul Sobocinski

April 13, 1930 - July 30, 2018

Donald P. Sobocinski (Don) passed away peacefully on Monday, July 30, 2018. Don was born on Palm Sunday, April 1930, to Stanley and Anne Sobocinski in North Tonawanda (NT), New York. He was preceded in death by his parents, his only son, Douglas Dean, by his sister, Donna Marie Smith, and by his brother, Dr. Robert Sobocinski. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joan; daughters, Deborah Pearson and husband Steve, Roxanne Sharrock and husband Stuart, and Lisa Rapier and husband Douglas. Don is also survived by nine grandchildren: Lane (Ashley), Chad (Sarah) and Dean (Randi) Pearson; Matt (Traci), Glen, Lee and Audrey Sharrock; Rachel and Renee Rapier; great grandchildren, Everette, Adalyn, Kaylee, Grant and Charlotte. Other survivors include his brother Dr. Lawrence Sobocinski and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Don attended Catholic School through the eighth grade. Then he attended NT High School where he lettered in track and football, was class president, and graduated as valedictorian. Don entered the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 1948. He earned his "letter" in track, was part of the ROTC program, was named BMOC, was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and graduated in Chemical Engineering. It was also at OU where Don met Joan Burr Forck. They fell in love and married late in 1952.

After receiving his military commission, Don was assigned to White Sands

Proving Ground in New Mexico. There he worked mostly on missile propulsion systems. After his assignment at White Sands was completed, Don returned to OU where he received a fellowship and earned a master's degree in chemical engineering. Then, Don went to the University of Kansas, received another fellowship and earned his PhD, also in chemical engineering.

Late in 1958 Don accepted a research position in Tulsa with what is now ExxonMobil; soon he moved with the company to Houston. Don worked mostly in reservoir engineering and soon was planning, directing and presenting studies about new field developments and changes needed in mature fields. He also consulted with exploration personnel about engineering aspects of new properties. Don was principal author and editor-in-chief for an in-house publication on reservoir engineering. He spent two years in Saskatchewan as acting division reservoir engineer. With all this experience, Don spent several decades during which he consulted/lectured in various parts of the world, often for 60-90 days every year. He was known for his essentially note-free, fresh lectures during which he encouraged and received much discussion. He was awarded over 40 plaques as outstanding lecturer. Don retired in 1992, but continued to consult for another ten years.

Don enjoyed a variety of activities, especially those in which the family was involved. He liked all kinds of fishing, traveling, tennis, sailing, dancing, landscape painting, and genealogical/historical studies of his family. Don was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, was a past president and current member of the ExxonMobil retirement group (MAC) in Houston, Sigma Xi Scientific Society, St John Vianney Catholic Church, the OU Letterman's Assn., dance clubs, and the Polish Genealogical Society of Texas.

Above all, Don was a man of great faith who loved his church and his family. He was loved by those who knew him and will be greatly missed.

The Sobocinski family will be present to receive friends Thursday, August 2, 2018 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM with the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:30 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. The Funeral Mass will commence Friday, August 3, 2018 at 10:30 AM at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079. A reception will follow Holy Mass on the church campus. Visit www.DettlingFuneral.com to leave words of condolence for the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Rosary

AUG 2. 7:30 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Paul Sobocinski*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Donald Paul Sobocinski*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Donald Paul Sobocinski*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Donald Paul Sobocinski*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Dear Joan and Family,
I was so sorry to read of Mr. Sobo's passing. He was a wonderful man in so many ways and I can imagine your heartbreak. You were such lovely neighbors and I often think of those days in Nottingham Forest. I have been without Jeff for nearly 10 years now but am fortunate to see my family often. They come to England in the summer and I go there in the winter! God bless you all. Love, Ann Mawer*

Ann Mawer - August 18, 2018 at 02:49 AM

HO

“ Dear Mrs. Sobocinski and family,

Please accept our deepest condolences. I have so many fond memories of Mr. Sobocinski, especially from when I would join dad on the weekends growing up to play tennis with the guys up at the club. Always great stories and lots of laughter. We'll truly miss him. We will keep you and the family in our prayers.

Love,

The Owings Family

Hank Owings - August 03, 2018 at 04:49 AM

MS

“ Many prayers to Roxanne&Stewart and family,

I loved your Dad he was always happy and enjoyed life on this earth, with your wonderful mother and family. It was a blessing to know him and how much he enjoyed being with you all. Always keep him in your heart, he will be there forever! Remember the blessings that God has given you, sharing time together in Jesus name. I Love you all so much!

Thinking of you

This morning as I rose from bed and saw the sun above I softly said “Good Morning, God

Bless everyone I love.”

And right away I thought of you and said a loving prayer that he would bless you specially and keep you free from care. I thought of all the happiness your day could hold in store; and wished it all for you, because no one deserves it more. I felt so warm and good inside, my heart was all aglow. I know God heard my prayer for you, he hears them all you know.

God Bless your family, Mari, Jillian and Brandon

Mari Seitzer - August 02, 2018 at 10:13 PM

BC

“ Prayers to Lisa & Doug Rapier (and to the girls) with the loss of Lisa's dad. No doubt knowing Lisa - he had so many reasons to be proud of the amazing woman he raised and of her wonderful family. Reading Donald's obituary, he was sure an impressive guy - wish I could have known him but I feel like I do through Lisa. God's Blessings to the Sobocinski Family.

Betty Costantini - August 02, 2018 at 06:46 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Paul Sobocinski.



August 02, 2018 at 06:37 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Paul Sobocinski.



August 02, 2018 at 04:01 PM



“ 139 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Detting Funeral Home - August 02, 2018 at 03:32 PM



“ *Your Kodiak Family purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Donald Paul Sobocinski.*



Your Kodiak Family - August 02, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Paul Sobocinski.*



August 02, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Paul Sobocinski.*



August 01, 2018 at 11:13 PM



“ *Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Donald Paul Sobocinski.*



August 01, 2018 at 09:46 PM

RR

“ My condolences to Joan and the rest of Don's family. I have known Don for over 40 years and have learned a great deal from him, as a student of his, as a coworker of his and as a lecturer along side him. He was always rated a top lecturer, both in Houston schools and overseas, where he was in demand. I taught Reservoir Engineering School with Don in 1976/77 in Norway and in Iran. It was a challenge to follow Don as a lecturer, but I greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn from him. One impressive incident, at the end of the school in Norway, was when Don summarized all of his lectures in 2 minutes (speaking at 100 mph) and didn't miss any important points. Don was resourceful and skilled at overcoming logistical problems in the schools (lack of lighting in the Norway school in December, and failure of KLM to get the textbooks to Iran in time for the school there). I also enjoyed the evening of informal discussions with Don when he demonstrated both his passion and his compassion. Family was very important to him. I considered Don a good friend. He was a special person and we will greatly miss him.

Robert Rossen - August 01, 2018 at 02:26 PM