

Martin: Donald John

May 10, 1943-May 28, 2018

Donald John Martin was born in Empress, Alberta May 10, 1943, to Thomas and Olga. He was the youngest and grew up with four older sisters on the family farm at Buffalo. At the age of 16, they moved from the farm at Buffalo to Big Valley where he finished out his schooling.

Upon finishing his schooling, Donny and Wilbert Brokski started their own company called Carnwood Wireline in Big Valley. A short time later, he went on to work for the Hudson Bay Oil and Gas Company in Cessford. During this time, he met a young lady, Muriel Knutson, and they were married in 1968. They resided outside of Cessford in the Hudson Bay Oil & Gas camp. While working for the company Donny also commuted in the "old green truck" to farm the homestead in Buffalo.

During this time Donny and Muriel welcomed three sons: Burnell, Chance and Clinton. In 1976 they purchased their family farm south of Cereal where they welcomed their last two sons Trent and Jennings. Donny, along with his boys, worked hard on the family farm—Southview Farm and Livestock — where cattle and John Deere 6601s could be found. When Donny wasn't farming you could find him working at the Cereal Auction Mart.

In 1988, Donny attended the Western College of Auctioneering in Billings, Montana. He worked with Charlton's Auction Service for a time before he ventured out on his own to start Martin's Auction Service where his slogan was "We're a Bid Better."

Donny was a very active member of the Cereal community, coaching hockey and baseball as well as being part of the Lions Club, and president of the Rodeo Club.

Donny and Muriel loved to travel. They took annual vacations to Mexico for quite a few years. Donny, with his straw cowboy hat and dark tan, was often mistaken for one of the locals! They have travelled to Arizona, the East Coast, Russia, took a cruise to the Panama Canal and visited numerous other places.

Donny loved a good card game, especially when there was money involved, whether it was a game of pass the ace on birthdays or anniversaries to a poker game with the guys. He was known for being very competitive, which often lead to him throwing his cards on the table, much to the amusement of his opponents. His favorite saying was I'm Sunk— even if the first hand had just been dealt.

He loved sports, especially baseball. He loved the game so much that he built a diamond— Martin Field—at the farm so the whole family could enjoy it. Donny was always willing to bet a chocolate bar or a buck on the Boston Bruins and BC Lions but his favorite games to watch were the ones his grandkids played.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 50 years Muriel; five sons: Burnell (Laurel), Chance (Trina), Clinton, Trent (Kathy), Jennings (Krista); 11 grandchildren: Skylar and Treyle; Lacy (Jay) Muntean, Brant, Kora and Tyra; Trey, Grady and Jude; Ephram and Elliott. Three sisters: Alice Melnychyn, Nina Dziatkewich. Vi (Alan) Ward: brother-in-law George McNaughton; sisters-in-law Rita (Cliff) Andrus and

Mabel Knutson and many dear nieces, nephews and friends, Donny was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Olga; parents-in-law George and Alice Knutson; sister Mary McNaughton; brothers-in-law Pete Melnychyn, Joe Dziatkewich, Leonard and Dennis Knutson; sister-in-law Lillian Knutson and grandson Jarett Samuel Martin.

The funeral service was held in the Buffalo Community Hall June 2 at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Helen Reed officiating. Eulogists were Lacy Muntean and Brant Martin (Donny's grandchildren). Readers were Trey Martin and Skylar Martin (Donny's grandchildren). Pianist was Lorraine Monkman accompanying hymns Amazing Grace and How Great Thou Art.

Pallbearers were Dana McNaughton, Lonnie Melnychyn, Carl Dziatkewich, Darcy Ward, Danny Knutson and Stephen Muzyka.

Interment took place at Cottrell Cemetery in Cereal.

Following the service family and friends gathered for a time of fellowship and refreshments hosted by the Cereal and Buffalo communities.

MacLean's Funeral Home of Oyen in care of arrangements.