



# Donald Cullen

DEC 1, 1927 - JUL 10, 2013



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## **Donald Cullen**

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**D**onald Keith Cullen passed away on July 10, 2013 at the age of 85. "Uncle Don" was born on December 1, 1927 in Hallsville to Joel B. Cullen, Jr. and Linnie Perry Cullen. His parents and his loving sister, June Cullen Irwin, of Cleveland, Ohio, preceded him in death.

Don graduated from Hallsville High School, entered North Texas Agricultural College in 1944, and enrolled in the ROTC program where he was a member of the "Singing Cadets". He then transferred to Kilgore Junior College for his second year and next enlisted in the Army in August 1947. He was assigned to the Army Security Agency ASA and served at the Herzo Base near Nuremburg, Germany until his discharge in 1950. He often spoke of his Army years and some of his lifelong Army buddies, including Bob DuBos from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Upon return to the US, he enrolled and finished his college career at the University of Texas in Austin. His mother, Linnie, went back to work to pay for his tuition. After graduation, he taught history to junior high school students before taking up his career in aerospace and safety engineering. That occupation took him to Utah where his group mixed and loaded solid rocket fuel for the Minute Man Missile, the Nation's first line of defense. From there he transferred to NASA's Michoud Plant in New Orleans to build the first stage of the Saturn rocket that put men on the moon. In retirement, Don cared for his ailing mother and after her passing, he traveled far and wide with his sister, June, to such places as New Zealand and Australia. In later years, Uncle Don, always a lover of electronics, became quite the maven with his computer and corresponded daily with friends and family with e-mail letters and jokes. Up until the last year of his life, he enjoyed fully independent living at his home in Longview and particularly loved his brand new Mercedes.



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He is survived by his nephews, Jim Irwin Stephanie of New Orleans and John Irwin Nancy of Cleveland; and his niece, Suzanne Emerson Scott, also of Cleveland. "Uncle Don" had a grand total 18 nieces and nephews, including great and great-great. His first cousin and childhood best friend, Charles Ray Cain of Dallas, also survives Don, as does his cousin, Gayle Mauldin, from Hallsville.

The family wishes to express its gratitude to Don's dear neighbors, Jim and Bettie Wooldridge, who so generously and lovingly helped care for him these last few months.

A private service for family and friends will be held and burial will be in the Hallsville Cemetery. Don will rest next to his wonderful mother and father.



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Don was such a sweet and kind neighbor. I often ran into him out in our 'shared' street when I was out walking or getting the mail. I always enjoyed our conversations! He would always inquire about my kids from the time they played out in the yard and rode bikes until they drove off to college. We had the privilege of living near Don for almost 19 years, and it was quite evident to me that he loved his family very much. I feel blessed to have known him...may God bless him always!!!##imported-begin##Sherry Peck##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Don was a wonderful neighbor, and friend! He watched my children grow up and he was always interested in their lives and as they became grown he celebrated each of their accomplishments. My son, Randal, started watering his yard for an allowance at age 9 and Randal helped Don with his computer and they shared so many wonderful visits. Don was very important in our every day life in many ways. When I heard of his passing, I could imagine how much fun he's having in heaven meeting and greeting his family! He was so interested in his genealogy, and now he's getting to meet them in person! Our family feels very blessed we had Don as our friend and neighbor for twenty-four years. We loved him very much!!!##imported-begin##Valerie Neel##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Don, it feels strange writing this last letter to you. Since our days together in Germany 65 years ago as Comrades in Arms; we became Brothers, close and personal; corresponding and sharing events in our lives as we aged. We laughed and enjoyed good times and we talked and we cried when we lost our Buddies. As your own medical problems increased these last few years, you were always in my daily thoughts and prayers, as a member of our family. You will always remain in them. So Don, you join your Mom and Dad and family, and some of our guys from so long ago. Your life was such that Our Lord will welcome you with, â??Well done, good and faithful servantâ?. Rest in Peace, dear friend. It was a pleasure to know you. God Bless. Bob##imported-begin##Bob Dubos##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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