



## Donavon "Don" C. Lakin

September 17, 1940 - September 4, 2019

Donavon "Don" Craig Lakin, age 78, of Pierce City, MO died on Wednesday, September 04, 2019, at Select Specialty Hospital in Springfield, MO. Mr. Lakin was born in Waterloo, IA on Tuesday, September 17, 1940. He was the son of Harold and Arlene (Roethler) Lakin. Mr. Lakin was married to Mary Lou Kelly on Sunday, February 14, 1965. He graduated from Bolivar High School in 1957, attended SW Baptist University in Bolivar, MO, and then obtained his embalming degree from John A. Gupton School of Embalming in Nashville, TN. He owned Commercial Embalming Service for several years in Springfield, MO. After selling it, he moved to the Barry/Lawrence County area over 40 years ago where he purchased Funeral Homes in Monett, Pierce City, and opened Funeral Homes in Stotts City and Wheaton. Mr. Lakin was appointed to the State Board of Embalming and Funeral Directors in 1986 becoming chairman in 1990. Mr. Lakin was elected and served several terms as Lawrence County Coroner. Mr. Lakin was a member of Decatur Lodge #400 and the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine. He enjoyed hunting, farming, spending time with family, and playing slot machines at Casinos. Mr. Lakin enjoyed showing cattle with his son, Kelly, and Grandson, Logan. Mr. Lakin thoroughly enjoyed helping people through the funeral process and loved to talk with people.

Surviving are the following: his wife, Mary Lou of the home, two sons, Scott and Kelly Lakin, both of Pierce City, MO; one grandson, Logan Lakin of Pierce

City, MO; and one brother-in-law, Allen Kelly of Springfield, MO. There are many other family members and friends who will miss him.

Masonic Services will be held at First Baptist Church of Pierce City, MO on September 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM with visitation to follow until 8:00 PM. Funeral Services will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 1:00 PM with Pastor Jimmie Copley and Brother Billy Harvill officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Pierce City, MO.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Shriner's Hospitals for Children in care of the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

Pierce City, MO 65723

# Previous Events

## Masonic Services

SEP 9. 6:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
21819 Hwy 97  
Pierce City, MO 65723

## Visitation

SEP 9. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
21819 Hwy 97  
Pierce City, MO 65723

## Funeral Service

SEP 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
21819 Hwy 97  
Pierce City, MO 65723

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*

October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *I just learned of Don's passing. I worked with him through the years teaching and helping him with the funeral home website. He was one of a kind. We built a great bond and friendship. I will miss hearing his voice and his stories. Until we meet again Mr Don! Rest peaceful great soul..,*

**Monica Grzech** - February 08, 2020 at 03:22 AM



“ *There are no words to describe the loss of this man and its impact on so many. Don was such a fighter for families in their time of need and for months and years after. RIP Don, thank you for all you have done for my family and all the many families who were blessed to have you in our corner when we needed someone. Don Lakin, more than a funeral director, a caring friend who is missed.*

**Denise Cooksey** - October 01, 2019 at 12:58 PM



“ *Pierce City has lost one more part of its history. Don was here for us in trying times and yet he was always supportive of our city when fun times were here. One sees him supporting his fellow masons and standing by their cookouts. Thank you for having a loving heart that is now finally at rest.*



**kay and mike williams** - September 10, 2019 at 11:31 AM

FS

“ Fred & Pam Schoen lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



Fred & Pam Schoen - September 10, 2019 at 05:58 AM



“ I am so sorry for your lose, MY PRAYER'S GO OUT TO YOU & your Family

Mary Twitty - September 09, 2019 at 06:54 PM

Holly St Martin

“ Prayers for you all. Don was such a great man and will be missed by anyone who knew him.



Holly St Martin - September 09, 2019 at 11:49 AM

DK

“ Don And Carole Kleiboeker lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



Don and Carole Kleiboeker - September 09, 2019 at 11:25 AM

DK

“ We were gone last week, and just heard the news about Don this morning. He was a wonderful supporter of FFA and other youth events. He always had a smile and a word of encouragement for the people he spoke with. May God bless and comfort you, his loving family. Don and Carole Kleiboeker

Don and Carole Kleiboeker - September 09, 2019 at 11:22 AM

MJ

“ Melissa Jones lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



Melissa Jones - September 09, 2019 at 08:53 AM

PK

“ Pat and Cindi Kreutzer purchased the With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin.



Pat and Cindi Kreutzer - September 09, 2019 at 12:08 AM

CK

“ Don and his family were so kind to us when we lost Patsy. I wish we could all be there to share your loss, as well. Our thoughts and prayers are coming your way.  
Pat & Cindi Kreutzer

Cindi Kreutzer - September 08, 2019 at 11:53 PM

DG

“ Don & Margie Gripka lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



Don & Margie Gripka - September 08, 2019 at 12:14 PM

SL

“ I first met Don when I drove up to get a casket we needed for a preneed in about 1983. This '72 Miller-Meteor endloader was his coach at the time. The nameplates read DONAVON C LAKIN:



Steve Loftin - September 07, 2019 at 04:25 PM

 Cindy Vadnais

“ We will miss Don. He was a good friend with a ready laugh and smile. He was always ready to help someone in need Don loved life to the fullest. May he rest in peace and god bless his family. Our prayers are with you in your time of sadness.  
Dan Dodson

Cindy Vadnais - September 07, 2019 at 04:16 PM

 Cindy Vadnais

“ Cindy Vadnais lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



Cindy Vadnais - September 07, 2019 at 04:08 PM

CD

“ Sorry for your loss. Don was a great guy who will be missed by many. Now he can look over all of us.

Cindy Vadnais and Daniel Dodson - September 07, 2019 at 01:25 PM

BH

“ So sorry for your loss! Prayers for the families! He was a great person and cared and helped so many people! He will be deeply missed by so many! He was quite the Legan!



Bonnie Heeter - September 07, 2019 at 10:30 AM

JB

“ Jerry Burrus lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



Jerry Burrus - September 07, 2019 at 09:14 AM

LK

“ Just a quick note to say that I'm sorry for Don's loss and glad I got to see him earlier this year when we came down to visit and took a "girl's day" bringing Mom down with Erin, Macie & I to hang out with y'all.  
Don was one of my birthday buddies!  
Lorie Klippel

Lorie Klippel - September 07, 2019 at 08:00 AM

DD

“ *Don Day lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



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**Don Day** - September 06, 2019 at 10:43 PM

CM

“ *Such an amazing man. He was a bright light during a challenging period and loss of my mother His kindness I have never forgotten*

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**chris mahurin** - September 06, 2019 at 07:55 PM

MB

“ *Sorry for you loss. Remembering how caring he was with our family loss. God bless you and your family. Norma Bacarisse*



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**Michelle Bacarisse** - September 06, 2019 at 06:12 PM

MB

“ *Michelle Bacarisse lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



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**Michelle Bacarisse** - September 06, 2019 at 06:09 PM

SA

“ Don was a long time friend. I first met him when I was probably 5-6 ,years old. His Mom & stepdad bought my aunts farm. Always enjoyed, seeing him at masonic & shrine functions.

Shirley Albright - September 06, 2019 at 03:19 PM

SA

“ So sorry for your loss! Don was a great man. I will never forget him standing up for me and helping support me during a tough time for our family. He touched my life and was definitely someone who had an impact on many! Praying for your family.

Samantha - September 06, 2019 at 11:32 AM

DH

“ Sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed seeing & talking to Don.

Dan Halbrook

Daniel D Halbrook - September 06, 2019 at 10:09 AM



“ Love and prayers for all. Don was an amazing man, that took care of many. God Bless Lon W & Susan D Cearley



Susan Cearley - September 06, 2019 at 09:42 AM

CM

“ Such a dear friend, Don you will be so missed. One of the best people I have ever known. Rest in peace my friend.

Christie Myers - September 06, 2019 at 09:39 AM

MB

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Don's passing. He will be missed terribly. I enjoyed sitting and listening to his many stories.



Melissa Britton - September 06, 2019 at 09:17 AM

RN

“ Don gave me my first outside job taking care of the lawn of the Funeral Home in Monett and then in Pierce City. Don had a huge impact on my young life. I will greatly miss him!

Russ (Rusty) Nichols - September 06, 2019 at 09:04 AM

HW

“ We were blessed to have Don as a welcoming, thoughtful, highly entertaining, next-door neighbor for so many years. He was incredibly kind and patient with our family. Don was always busy, but always ready to stop and share. When Don would come by for a visit, we would just gather around and prepare to laugh, debate, or wonder. His kindness in caring for our grandparents and other family members, for their services, was extraordinary. Don was a consummate professional but had a very personal touch. He absolutely adored Mary Lou and "his boys." I remember our humorously debating what was on the other side of this earth life. I can now imagine many angels gathered around him - ready to hear his real-life stories and laugh.



Heather (Falls) Willard - September 06, 2019 at 08:03 AM

GF

“ I don't wanna believe this 💔. It says share a memory but I have too many to count. Many that I know he went above and beyond his duties to help us. What they all have in common tho is that I have no idea how both mine and Greg's side of the family would have made it thru quite a few of our losses without the guidance of Don Lakin, both the business side and the emotional side. This giant-like of a soul will leave our little town with a huge hole for a long while to come because you can't teach what he was gifted with. To his family, my greatest hope is that our community can give to you even a sliver of what your loved one gave to all of us. He truly was one of a kind, one I thought would live forever, and he will always be greatly missed. Lots of love and light to all of you. Forever grateful, the Slagle/Mettlach fam

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**Greg & Manda Mettlach and family** - September 06, 2019 at 02:20 AM

WM

“ Sincere condolences to the family of our departed brother. Alpha Lodge #659 in North Kansas City, MO

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**WB Marty Myers** - September 06, 2019 at 12:17 AM

PC

“ Don handled the loss of several of our family members with compassion and patience!  
Prayers for the family during this time!  
Bill and Phyllis (Dixon) Close

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**Phyllis (Dixon) Close** - September 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *Christina Skaggs Lewis lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



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**Christina Skaggs Lewis** - September 05, 2019 at 11:56 PM

LA

“ *I will miss seeing Don at coroners training and listening to his many stories. My condolences to his family.*

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**Larry Arnold** - September 05, 2019 at 10:32 PM

JN

“ *Jess Nichols lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



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**Jess Nichols** - September 05, 2019 at 09:50 PM

JW

“ *Vince & Janelle Witt*



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**Janelle Witt** - September 05, 2019 at 09:18 PM

JW

“ Oh my goodness! I have so many memories I wouldn't know where to start. He always had a funny story to tell me or about me. Probably the most vivid memories are when he would dial the wrong number in the middle of the night & say, “oh this isn't Mary Lou”? or what is the phone number to???? To his family please know our prayers & thoughts are with you! May God give you peace. We will all miss Don 🙏💖

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**Janelle Witt** - September 05, 2019 at 09:14 PM

LB

“ Don will be missed by so many. It was an honor to know him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Lou and the family.

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**Linda Berens** - September 05, 2019 at 08:50 PM

TW

“ RIP....my friend.....Don did not know a stranger always took the time to stop and talk to you.....Prayers go out to the family

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**Tami Witt** - September 05, 2019 at 08:50 PM

DI

“ Don has always been there for our family. He was a very caring person who loved his family, his many friends and his community. Don will be greatly missed and I appreciate everything he did for our family over the years. I am sure Racine has one of his favorite lemon meringue pies waiting for him when he arrives at the pearly gates. God Bless you Don! Our prayers and thoughts are with Mary Lou and the Lakin Family.  
Denis and Diana Neumayer

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**Diana** - September 05, 2019 at 08:31 PM

Patrice  
Kramer

“ *Patrice Kramer lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



Patrice Kramer - September 05, 2019 at 08:24 PM

MP

“ *My prayers and positive thoughts are with the Lakin family. Don was a great man with many stories and late night humor. Worked with Don on many passings you will be missed by all. RIP my friend!*

Mark Pennington - September 05, 2019 at 07:40 PM

LP

“ *Lee Parrigon lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



Lee Parrigon - September 05, 2019 at 07:01 PM

GF

“ *Don always had a smile and a kind word. We became in laws and I couldn't have picked a better father-in-law for my Daughter. Prayers for his loving family.*

Gina Frisby - September 05, 2019 at 04:41 PM

CL

“ Remembering how Don was there for us morning noon and night! He had a kind word and good advice. He was a man loved by the Father in a very special way. Don brought comfort in loss and joy to celebrations!

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**Cathy Lewis** - September 05, 2019 at 04:03 PM

CL

“ Cathy Lewis lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



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**Cathy Lewis** - September 05, 2019 at 03:59 PM

DC

“ Denise Lavon Cooksey lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin



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**Denise Lavon Cooksey** - September 05, 2019 at 02:46 PM

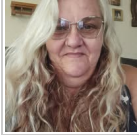
RS

“ Don has been a part of our family and our lives since the early 60's. He also played a big part in my growing up, and my deciding to make a career in funeral service. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lakin family at this time.

*He will be greatly missed by all the Shadel family .*

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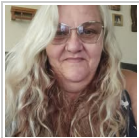
**Rusty Shadel** - September 05, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ *Kandie Webb lit a candle in memory of Donavon "Don" C. Lakin*



Kandie Webb - September 05, 2019 at 01:32 PM



“ *Many Family Blessings To the Lakin Family Love and Light to All.*

Kandie Webb - September 05, 2019 at 01:32 PM



“ *Don was a great guy have many memories of him. He'll be greatly missed :( . My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*



Melissa Robertson - September 05, 2019 at 12:36 PM



“ *Deepest sympathies.*

Melonie Roberts - September 05, 2019 at 12:16 PM



“ *Love Don and his family ❤️ I still have articles sent to me from the Lakin's, from the paper that I was in, from high school. That meant so much to me when I received them,,so much so, they are in my keepsakes. Hugs and prayers to all of you 💕*

Teri - September 05, 2019 at 12:01 PM

BS

“ Don was one-of-a-kind and had earned the respect of his fellow funeral directors, the State of Missouri staff from the State Board where he had served, and his customers and neighbors. Gruff but with a heart of gold, Don will be sorely missed. My prayers for his family and friends.

Brad Speaks - September 05, 2019 at 11:30 AM

JC

“ Don was one of the very first people that I became acquainted with upon moving to Missouri in 1992. He quickly became a comforter for our family, and later, a friend. I've always had the deepest respect for Don and his family. My heart is heavy. My memories of Don will carry on. He will be missed dearly.



Joyce Childress - September 05, 2019 at 11:12 AM



“ Sorry for your loss. He will be missed as we would see him so many places. Just remember all the good times.

Betty Jarvis - September 05, 2019 at 11:08 AM

JR

“ There are not to many people that I could sit and listen to for very long. But Donavon was one who I could listen to all afternoon. What a story teller he was. He was a mentor and a good friend to me. I will miss him. May God bless all of you.

Jeff Richardson - September 05, 2019 at 11:02 AM

SR

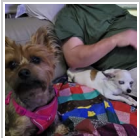
“ Don was a man with a huge heart for his community. He has helped thousands of people through very hard times. He surely will be missed. My thoughts are with the Lakin family.

Sherry Reed - September 05, 2019 at 10:30 AM

AS

“ My dad, bill romero, my grandmother, mable scott, and my uncle reggie robertson, all were there at your funeral home when they passed. Thank you your service, and you'll be missed as well. 🕯️ 🕯️  
🕯️ rest in peace 🕯️ 🙏

Angela Romero, salazar - September 05, 2019 at 09:58 AM



“ Don you will be missed. I remember when mom and dad owned the Cree Mee he'd park the hearse in the front....lol I have lots of fond memories of him.

Brenda Jarvis Sims - September 05, 2019 at 08:03 AM

KS

“ So many memories. What a great man. My heart is heavy and my thoughts and prayers to all of the family.



Kris Strouse - September 05, 2019 at 01:35 AM

GS

Mary Lou and Family: Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank God he will suffer no more. You have stood beside him and have many memories. He was very kind and helpful to those in need.

Glenda Schoen - September 05, 2019 at 10:52 AM



*Don was such a good man and had such a sense of humor! He will be missed. God's blessings on the family. Ernie and Connie Jarvis*

**Connie Jarvis** - September 05, 2019 at 06:23 PM

BS

*Don and Mary Lou have been a part of my life since 1969. I met Don when I first moved to Springfield and went to work and Chapel of the Ozarks. He took me under his wing and I apprenticed under him after returning from embalming school.*

*Don and Mary Lou (and Scott) stood up with my wife and I when we were married and even threw us a reception. I have more experiences and fond memories than I can recall. Losing Don is losing a part of my life experience. My heartfelt sympathy to Mary Lou, Scott, and Kelly and the entire family.*

**Brian Simmons** - September 06, 2019 at 12:47 PM

SR

*I have so many memories I could share about Don Lakin, a dear friend for over 30 years. Don served on the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors when we met and we had many opportunities to share experiences about almost everything but we always came back to family. His boys were the light of his life and although I did not get to meet his grandson, I know he had a special place in Don's heart. He was devoted to his profession and worked hard to make sure the regulations were fair to both the consumer and the profession. I will miss you Don and to Mary Lou and the boys, my heartfelt sympathy.*

**Sharlene Rimiller** - September 06, 2019 at 06:33 PM

BG

*Scott, Mary Lou and Kelly, I met Don at the Coroners training 15 years ago, Once you meet Don you will never forget him, his voice will ever be etched in my Memory. As a coroner and funeral director myself I know and understand the commitment it takes to do both of those jobs and I know Don did them well. He is a credit to the funeral profession and to the Missouri Coroners association. The communities that he served has suffered a great loss. May God Bless his soul.*

**Ben Grosse**

**Ben Grosse** - September 10, 2019 at 09:54 AM