



Donald Fay Tornow

May 31, 1927 - December 24, 2016

Donald "Don" Tornow, 89, passed away peacefully with family members at his bed-side in his oldest daughter, Susan's home in Adrian on December 24, 2016. He was born on May 31, 1927 in Adrian to the late Martin and Margie (Gitchell) Tornow. Don joined the Navy in 1944 when he was just 17, flying as a waist-gunner or on reconnaissance and security missions up and down America's coastlines. He was discharged from the Navy at war's end and married Elizabeth "Betty" Bryne. Don rejoined the service this time in the Air Force and served with distinction and decoration through the Korean War (the coldest winter of his life, he said) and two tours in Vietnam. He retired after 24 years of service and moved to Fife Lake in 1973 and helped his wife Betty open and operate the well-known and loved Tornow's Village Inn downtown. Don was a man among men. He was a natural leader in any situation and treated everyone as an equal and with respect. He was one of the most loved and respected men in Fife Lake, with volunteering countless hours at the Dale Wheeler American Legion Post, being a legendary Forest Area school bus driver, a clown in the town parade, a husband, father, grand and great-grandfather, "oil patch hand," or friend. Don was a kind man who made people feel better and happier when he was with them. His family and all of Fife Lake mourn his death. Don is survived by his children, Michael Tornow of Fife Lake, Donald Tornow of Kona, HI, John (NanHe) Tornow of Douglasville, GA; Susan (Ed) Clegg of Adrian, and Mariana (Chris) Sanford of Elk Rapids; 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; and his brother, Robert Tornow of Helena, MT. Don is preceded in death by his wife, Betty; siblings, Jim Tornow and Marian Collins. Visitation will be held on Friday, December 30th from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home in Kalkaska with the scripture service at 7:00 pm. The funeral mass is on Saturday at 11:00 am at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Fife Lake. Reverend Norman Dickson, S.J. will be officiating. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Fay Tornow*

January 30, 2023 at 04:02 AM



“ *Donald Fay Tornow*

January 30, 2023 at 01:03 AM

SM

“ *Dear ffamily, friends Don & Betty were 2 wonderful people!! I loved them both dearly. Once again they will be together. Don was a terrifice bus driver! I sure miss the restaurant of the good ole days! God Bless you all! Sally Jo Myers, South Boardman, Mi.*

sally myers - January 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Don was a great and kind gentleman. He will be so missed. So sorry for your loss.*

Cindy Saylor - December 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are sorry to hear of Don's passing. We remember him as a warm, welcoming man when we visited Fife Lake. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Randy and Lindy Richard*

December 31, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *Mr. Tornow was like a granddad to me all those years he drove my school bus. He always made sure that he had a smile and a joke for me everyday after school. I looked forward to hearing stories about when "he was my age" and was sad that our time together was just a few hours in the afternoon. To this day, over a decade later, I still think of him often and wonder where life had taken him. I am deeply saddened to learn of his passing and will wait until the day when we are all reunited in paradise.*

Ashley Titherage - December 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ I'M so sorry for your loss. He was a super person.

April Kelley - December 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear about your fathers passing. Both your mom and dad were very close friends of mine and enjoyed working for them at the Village Inn.. Sorry I can not attend the visitation. I just got out of hospital today as I had a heart attack.
Family Friend Sharon Byrns

Sharon Byrns - December 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Such a beautiful man...this community will deeply miss you Don...the kids of this community loved you as well...you have forever touched each and everyone of us ?

Rose and Ted Peck - December 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Don was a great person. He always had a smile and a hug. He led a amazing life.

Pat Szymchak - December 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Our condolences to the entire family at the loss of a great man. I will miss him a lot as I do Betty too. Our prayers are with you as you struggle thru this. Our love to all. Cindy Dennis Slick

Dennis Cindy Slick - December 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Condolences to the Tornow Family, Don was part of what made Fife Lake, Fife Lake. Some of my earliest memories were of him and Betty running the restaurant. Thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

Jason Ellis - December 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM