



## Donald L. Sander

January 31, 1949 - February 4, 2026

Donald L. Sander, age 77, passed away at 1:20 a.m. on February 4, 2026, at Serenity Springs Senior Living at Northwood in Jasper.

He was born on January 31, 1949, to Victor and Viola (Vogler) Sander.

On May 6, 1972, Donnie married the love of his life, Linda Bickwermert, beginning a devoted partnership that spanned more than five decades. He was a proud graduate of Dubois High School, Class of 1967. Following high school, Donnie joined the U.S. Army Reserve, where he formed lifelong friendships and continued his commitment to service.

Throughout his working life, Donnie was employed by several local companies, but nothing brought him greater pride than founding Sander Catering, a business that reflected his strong work ethic and love for bringing people together.

Donnie was a lifelong member of St Isidore Parish- St. Celestine Catholic Church and deeply involved in his community. He served as a member of the Celestine Volunteer Fire Department, the Celestine Community Club, Knights of Columbus, Celestine Park, and was President of the Celestine Sesquicentennial. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #147, Dubois County Builder's Association, and the Jasper Chamber of Commerce.

Generosity defined Donnie's life. He freely donated his time and talents to countless community events and organizations, including Lenten Fish Fries, Strassenfest booths, Celestine Streetfest, Celestine Park Holiday BBQs, Celestine Community Club Shooting Matches, and the Dubois Ruritan Septemberfest, just to name a few. He was especially known for never turning down an opportunity to help a local family in need through fundraising efforts. His time and talents were recognized by receiving the Celestine Distinguished Service Award and becoming Grand Marshal with his siblings for the Celestine 175th celebration.

Donnie is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Linda Sander; his daughter, Jenna (Damian) Mehne; and his four cherished granddaughters, Ava, Kilyn, Brynlee, and Freya Mehne. He is also survived by his sisters, Darlene Phillips, Martha Goepfrich, and Cindy (Tony) Vernon; his brothers, Jim (Margaret) Sander and Ronnie (Mary) Sander; his godfather and uncle, Charlie Vogler; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Ryan Sander, his parents, Victor and Viola Sander, two brothers-in-law, Steve Goepfrich and Mark Phillips and one niece, Emily Phillips.

Donald will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his family, church, and community, his generous spirit, and his willingness to help anyone in need. His legacy of service and kindness will live on in the many lives he touched.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Donald L. Sander will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at St. Celestine Catholic Church in Celestine, Indiana. A burial will follow in the church cemetery. The American Legion Post #147 will conduct military graveside rites.

A visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026, at the Becher Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper. A second visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. Mass time at St. Celestine Catholic Church on Tuesday, February 10th.

Memorial contributions may be made to St Isidore Parish or a favorite charity.

Online condolences can be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Celestine Cemetery

6864 Indiana 164  
Celestine, IN 47521

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 9. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - North  
3221 N. Newton Street  
Jasper, IN 47546  
(812) 482-4141  
email@becherkluesner.com

## Visitation

FEB 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Celestine Church  
6864 Indiana 64  
Celestine, IN

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Celestine Church  
6864 Indiana 64  
Celestine, IN



# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Sending our sympathy to the family. Donnie and other classmates were 2 years ahead of me in highschool. But for some reason alot of us hung around them as freshmen girls. They made highschool fun & did some hilarious things.

Peggy & Steve Stemle - February 10 at 08:17 PM

WK

“ Wanda Krodel lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander



Wanda Krodel - February 08 at 02:35 PM

KJ

“ Donnie was a great classmate! For years we had our class reunion at his house & there was plenty of food & drinks! Plus Donnie always made us laugh & smile!❤️🙏🙏🙏

Karen J.Raufeisen - February 06 at 11:50 AM

ML

“ So sorry for your whole family and everyone for your loss of such an influential man in the community. Martha, Todd, and all of you who do so much for Celestine. Our hearts will be with you. Sorry we can't make the funeral as we will be out of state. Know our love is with you all. Allen and Maureen

Maureen Luebbehusen - February 06 at 09:42 AM



“ *Donnie was an amazing person. He gave so much support to activities for NE Dubois school system and Celestine Community over the years and when my stepbrother Mitch was burned in a house fire he gave us a nice donation for a cupcake. Told me to keep the change. I witnessed so many acts of kindness from him over the years. I hope he found peace when reunited with Ryan. Thinking of Linda, Jenna and entire family* ❤️ *Bob and Cheryl Welp*



---

**Cheryl Welp** - February 05 at 11:00 PM

WK

*Donnie was a Giver! He had a forever smile and a heart of gold! He was an unforgettable classmate. Lind and Jenna, I will keep you in my prayers.*

---

**Wanda Krodel** - February 06 at 03:11 PM

CA

“ *Connie And Mike Archer lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander*



---

**Connie and Mike Archer** - February 05 at 03:20 PM

DH

“ *Our sympathy and prayers to all the Sander family!*



---

**Dave & Lucy Harrison** - February 05 at 03:06 PM

BK

“ *Betty Koch lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander*



---

**Betty Koch** - February 05 at 11:04 AM

MK

“ *Michelle Kiefer lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander*



---

**Michelle Kiefer** - February 05 at 07:25 AM

MK

*Donnie was an angel walking this Earth. He blessed everyone he met. He will be missed.*

---

**Michelle Kiefer** - February 05 at 07:26 AM

JK

“ *Jane And Felix Kryzanowski lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander*



---

**Jane and Felix Kryzanowski** - February 04 at 08:14 PM

MB

“ *What an absolute sweetheart Donnie was...his smile always made my day. RIP and hugs to all those you leave here on Earth. I am sure Ryan was greeting you. Love ya, Martie B*

---

**Martha J Bickwermert** - February 04 at 07:46 PM

DC

“ *Diane Carie lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander*



---

**Diane Carie** - February 04 at 07:25 PM

JS

“ *He will be missed by everyone. He always liked to play cards. Prayers go out to the family and everyone who knew him.*



---

**Jane Schroeder** - February 04 at 06:19 PM

DR

“ *Dave & Michele Reuber lit a candle in memory of Donald L. Sander*



---

**Dave & Michele Reuber** - February 04 at 06:13 PM

TI

“ I have many wonderful memories of Donnie...Fun and Happy ones. All of them are examples of his fun, kind, generous and loving personality. I was 17 when first introduced to him and Linda and was very blessed to know them both. Prayers!

---

**Tina** - February 04 at 01:45 PM

JV

Donnie was wonderful man . He was my plant manager at ofs . Always helped us out if we needed anything . Our prayers for his family he will be missed . Jane Vaeth

---

**jane vaeth** - February 06 at 02:02 PM