



## Donald Wilford Ellis

May 19, 1945 - November 28, 2021

Donald Wilford Ellis, 76, of Cross Roads, TX, passed away Sunday, November 28, 2021. He was born May 19, 1945 in Detroit, MI to Wilford Zadel and Dorothy Minnie (Schram) Ellis. Don married Lois Jean Hampe in Birmingham, MI on June 18, 1977.

He served in the United States Navy on the USS America aircraft carrier stationed in the Mediterranean when it was the first ship to respond to the USS Liberty rescue efforts in 1976.

Don worked as a systems engineer. His jobs at Bendix and Summagraphics took him all over, including work at the Pentagon and the Panama Canal. His last 21 years before retiring in 2006 were at EDS supporting General Motors as an Application Support Specialist.

He loved electronics as a hobby and built his own computer (using Heathkit). He also enjoyed woodworking and made wood components to be used in pens and ice cream scoops. He loved serving the church including running the weekly webcast so those who were unable to attend services could view online. Most of all he loved his family, and they are very grateful that they had one last Thanksgiving with him.

Those who knew Don well, knew he would get a twinkle in his eye when he

was being mischievous, just like his mom!

Don is survived by his wife of 44 years, Lois of Cross Roads, TX; son, Steven Donald Ellis of Overland Park, KS; two daughters, Erin Elizabeth Ellis of Alhambra, CA and Melodie Lynne Palacios and husband Daniel of Savannah, TX; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilford and Dorothy; and granddaughter, Clara Laraine Palacios.

A graveside service will be held at 1:30PM, Thursday, December 2, 2021 at Roselawn Memorial Park in Denton, TX with Stan Martin officiating. Online condolences may be shared at [www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

# Cemetery Details

## Roselawn Memorial Park

3801 Roselawn Dr.  
Denton, TX 76207  
kacy@roselawndenton.com  
<http://roselawndenton.com>

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

DEC 2. 1:30 PM (CT)

Roselawn Memorial Park  
3801 Roselawn Dr.  
Denton, TX 76207  
kacy@roselawndenton.com  
<http://roselawndenton.com>

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ While we're all devastated by this news regarding this INCREDIBLE man, I thought I'd write a few words about Donald. I met him in 1983 when he and his family relocated from MICH to CT ! They were a very welcome addition to our local Church ! The family was quite fun to be around and Don was gifted with the ability to be both very jovial, yet extremely FOCUSED at the same time ! And, if that wasn't enough, he had impeccable integrity !

*I always admired him for these attributes, but I was frustrated bcuz I couldn't find anything to kid him about.....then out of nowhere, one of his family members, at a small gathering, mentioned his being known for his "LEAVE IT TO BEAVER" grin ! ALAS ! I found something ! Although I now had to connect Beaver with being mischievous so I could finally associate Don with having a fiendish side to his character ! Don was so good natured that, while he started blushing, he let me run with it ! Precious man ! One in a million. We'll all miss him beyond words !*

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**Steven Baldino** - December 02, 2021 at 10:18 AM

SC

“ On the way to the feast when Erin and Steve were small, we met for dinner. Don was secure in the knowledge that Steve and Erin would only eat hamburgers-easy to feed and inexpensive too. Steve and I sat with Steve and Erin and our girls. And Steve decided to encourage the kids to try prime rib- it was the feast afterall.) Erin and Steve tried steaks and were sold. Took a while for Don to forgive us as all Steve and Erin wanted for the rest of the feast was prime ribs.

*Glad he did forgive us as He and Lois and family have been a treasured part of our lives for many years. Steve and Margaret*

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**steve and Margaret St. Charles** - December 01, 2021 at 08:38 PM