



Don Connealy (class of 1980) was a generous man and kind soul who valued relationships and providing opportunities for others. The family of Don Connealy would like to share a little bit about the Connealy family so that you may understand who he was and where he came from...

Neil Connealy (father of Don) was the son of Ted Connealy and Genevieve Tobin. The original homestead, established in the 1890's, is now occupied by Quentin and Jill Connealy and family. Joan (mother of Don) is the daughter of Chester Aronson and Florence MacDonald. She moved to Tekamah during her childhood.

Neil and Joan married and settled in Tekamah on the family farm after their marriage in 1950. They raised 8 children on the farm, including Don, the youngest child. Two parents and eight children lived in a 3-bedroom home with no air conditioning. Everyone worked and contributed on the farm, and it gave Don an appreciation for hard work.

All eight children graduated from Tekamah. Some went on to college, some the service, and all have led successful careers. Some have stayed in Tekamah and have raised their own families continuing the farming tradition, while others moved away. But the Connealy family is a long-standing tradition to this day in Tekamah, NE, and maintaining those roots of tradition was very important to Don.

Don graduated with the Class of 1980, and soon after began a lifelong career in crop insurance. He married Tracy (Gibson) Connealy in October 1990. They lived and worked in Council Bluffs, raising two children. Family was extremely important to Don, and he loved attending his children's events. He supported and believed in their pursuit of higher education. Their daughter Kait graduated from Central College, Pella, Iowa, with a Degree in Education, specializing in Special Education. Their son Nate graduated from Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, with a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. He then went on to pursue his Doctorate in Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Don and Tracy were married just short of 30 years upon his sudden death in October of 2020.

Don always showed up when it mattered most. Whether it be relocating across the state to support his granddaughter while she battled a new muscular dystrophy diagnosis or driving a truck and trailer to and through downtown New York City to move his son into graduate school, you could always count on Don when the chips were down. He was also generous with his money, though choosing anonymity in most charitable endeavors because 'who it was from' was not important to him. These are just some examples of the countless times that he was dependable and generous, and to list all the instances that he showed his true character would take a book.

He will forever be remembered for his quick wit, patience, and love for family. He had a very kind heart and was generous with others. He strongly believed in "showing up" for others and providing opportunities. It is with this spirit that we wish to grant this scholarship to the youth of Tekamah High School students, hoping that it provides opportunity and a love for learning and growing.

Thank you for learning about Don and the Connealy family. While words will never replicate his impact on the world around him, it is our hope you will always emulate his qualities, to be kind, generous, and loving as you continue your pursuit of lifelong learning. And once you have the means, to pay it forward the way Don did, to continue to provide opportunity to the next generation. Please find formal scholarship details enclosed.

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