



## Mr. Carl Don Edmondson

July 19, 1935 - April 28, 2020

Don Edmondson was born July 19, 1935, the son of Carl and Hazel Edmondson. He died at his home in Forrest City on April 28, 2020. He is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Kay Edmondson and Sharon Melissa Midgett (Missy), two grandchildren, Dalton Midgett and Morgan Midgett, and one great grandchild, Maverick Kemp. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Ellen, his daughter, Vivian Garrett, and a sister June Edmondson Merrell. Don was a graduate of the University of Arkansas, where he became a Kappa Sig, which he remained steadfastly until the day of his death. He spent his professional career in the hospitality industry. He was an owner of and investor in motels, hotels, and restaurants in Forrest City and throughout the southeast United States. He was remarkably successful and was uniquely good at business. He was even better at life. Don was a giver, not a taker, and he was ever mindful of the needs of others. His and Ellen's philanthropies included, in addition to myriad local causes, the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the cancer research institute at UAMS, and many others. His service to others included the St. Francis County quorum court, Forrest City council, the boards of the St. Francis

County Indigent Care Fund, Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation, Campaign for the 21st Century at U of A, Architectural Campaign Committee at U of A, Arkansas Cancer Research Center, and many others. He was most proud of the honor of being Forrest City's 2019 citizen of the year.

Don was grateful for his many blessings, a loyal and steadfast friend, and a snappy dresser. He was never

better than anyone else, and was unfailingly kind. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Forrest City.

There will be a private graveside service for Don at Forrest Park Cemetery in Forrest City, Arkansas. Visit the online registry at [stevensfuneralhome.net](http://stevensfuneralhome.net).

# Cemetery Details

## **Forrest Park**

Hwy 1 South  
Forrest City, AR

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Mary Ann Campbell** - May 13, 2020 at 12:22 AM

LB

“ Lynda and I will treasure the times spent with Don in our church small group meetings.

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**Lamar Bridges** - May 07, 2020 at 07:34 PM

SS

“ My mother, Shirley Strong, worked for the Edmondson family caring for his mother till her death. She enjoyed working for the family. For over 20 years, Mr. Edmondson sent my mother a card every Christmas after she stopped working for them. She enjoyed those cards and still have them to this very day. I called her tonight and told her of his passing. She said he was very good to her. Our prayers are with his family.

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**Sondra Strong** - May 05, 2020 at 12:17 AM

PM

“ Don Edmondson met me with friendship and counsel from the first weeks of my arrival in Arkansas. He was a steadfast friend to the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and helped build the School and the culture of architecture in the state. Don and Ellen were gracious, kind, good-hearted - it was always joyful and lively to be in their presence. My deepest sympathies to the Edmondson family and to their many friends. I will miss Don, as I miss Ellen, but I will remember their example and their spirit. Peter MacKeith, dean of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas

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**Peter MacKeith** - May 02, 2020 at 09:23 AM

JK

“ A good friend and always very hospitable.....we will miss he and Ellen and our times together. Ann and John. KEKAB.

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**john. king** - May 01, 2020 at 09:24 PM

MC

“ *The world has a lot less FUN in it as of last Tuesday. Don Edmondson taught all his friends and family how to live, love, and laugh. Don was dashing and forever smitten with his love, Ellen. A loyal friend to those who knew him and generous to serve many who never will know him, yet will benefit greatly.*

*Guy Campbell roomed with Don for 3.5 years in the Kappa Sigma House at the U of A, Fayetteville. They remained close friends for life. Our travels together were always adventurous and filled with delight. Guy and I have great memories and feel blessed to have know and loved this great man.*



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**Mary Ann Campbell** - May 01, 2020 at 06:48 PM

MC

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Mary Ann Campbell** - May 01, 2020 at 06:28 PM

DA

“ *Doris Alexander lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carl Don Edmondson*



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**Doris Alexander** - April 30, 2020 at 11:52 PM

EH

“ I had the privilege of visiting with Don and Ellen at their home, they both were kind and welcoming. I have that sweet memory of two wonderful friends. Prayers for the family 🙏



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**Eva Hollowell** - April 30, 2020 at 09:34 PM

LC

“ Don was one of the finest men I ever had the pleasure of knowing. I worked for him in high school at minute man until I graduated and joined the Navy. After 20 years and retirement I returned to Forrest City and he gave me a job managing Taco Bell. I think the scariest thing I remember was the time he took me for a ride in his Panatera. He will truly be missed.

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**Larry Chadwick** - April 30, 2020 at 07:37 PM

DF

“ Although Don was a brilliant businessman and was very successful, he never thought he was better than anyone else. We had a lot of good times together, and he set the bar sky high when it came to being a gentleman and a friend. His kindness and philanthropy has impacted many, many people.

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**Danny Ferguson** - April 30, 2020 at 07:23 PM

GR

“ Gail Russell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carl Don Edmondson



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**Gail Russell** - April 30, 2020 at 01:57 PM

CM

“ Spent many fun filled hours with Don on the golf course and in the INN and KFC. He was always very polite and up-beat, a great asset to Forrest City.

Clint Merrill - April 30, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Mr. Carl Don Edmondson.



April 30, 2020 at 11:48 AM

CC

“ SO SORRY FOR THE LOSS OF THIS SWEET MAN I WORKED FOR DON MANY YEARS FOR HOLIDAY INN, ID SEE HIM FROM TIMES AT WALMART HE WOULD ALWAYS GIVE ME A HUG AND ASK HOW MY FAMILY ONE TIME ,AT WALMART DON DIDNT GET MUCH ANYWAY HE ASKED THE CLERK IF THAT WAS ALL HIS STUFF SHE SAID YES, BUT HE HAD GOTTEN ONE OF MY SACKS WHAT WAS SO FUNNY IT WAS SOUR CANDY STRIPES ID GOT FOR GRAND CHILDREN, IM SURE WHEN HE FOUND IT HE THOUGHT HOW FUNNY IT WAS TO HE HAD A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, ILL MISS DON TO.



CAROL CUMINGS - April 30, 2020 at 11:39 AM

BK

*A really great man! He sponsored our softball team when I was young, both Vivian and Missy played on our team. My mom Bonnie Burton and Willetta Carroll was our coach. Our team was called Kentucky Fried Chicken and Don was a great sponsor and a he loved all of us kids like his own. R.I.P. DON EDMONDSON you will be missed.*

**Brenda Burton Kelly** - May 01, 2020 at 01:48 PM

JK

“*Don was a kind, caring man, he never met a stranger. Every time I saw him, he always approached me with a hug and hand shake like he had known me all his life. I had know him for years.*”

**Jane Krablin** - April 30, 2020 at 10:18 AM

KF

“*Kathy Ford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carl Don Edmondson*”



**Kathy Ford** - April 30, 2020 at 09:52 AM

KW

“*Don was a genuine human being in every way! I've never met a man so nice that he felt obliged to meet and greet everyone he encountered. I owe Don a huge gratitude for being a loving friend to my father, a friendship that my daddy adored! Rest, Don, for you have given this world many gifts! kw*”

**karen withrow** - April 30, 2020 at 09:52 AM

ST

“ Shirley Thorn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Carl Don Edmondson



shirley Thorn - April 30, 2020 at 09:23 AM

JB

“ My Condolence Goes Out To The Family.Thank You Mr.Edmondson For Giving Me The Opportunity To Manage Some Of Your Resturant's. 😞 James Burks

James Burks - April 29, 2020 at 11:28 PM

AB

“ Such A Very good Person May God Bless and Keep

Ann B - April 29, 2020 at 06:59 PM

MK

Don was a very special friend to my family. He and Dad were a comedy act wherever they went. But he was a tremendous support to me when Dad got Alzheimer's disease. Larry and I will remember him with the greatest appreciation and love,

Madge Katsoulis - April 30, 2020 at 07:05 PM

DW

I knew Don & Ellen most of my life. Ellen was from Palestine, as am I. Don was a gracious gentleman and a pleasure to be around. Rest In Peace Don.

Doris Borden Waggoner - May 01, 2020 at 10:33 PM

DH

*Don, Curtis Merrill, Maynard Burrows and myself(Doug Halbert) were close friends when we went to high school together in Forrest City. We graduated together in 1953. We loved to play tennis together and we spent many a late night playing at the country club. Don will be missed very much as Maynard and Curtis have been.*

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**Doug Halbert** - May 01, 2020 at 10:51 PM