



## Donald R. Witmer

September 11, 1924 - August 6, 2019

Donald R. Witmer, age 94, of Willow Street, PA, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at the Mennonite Home. He was preceded in death by his wife Catherine A. Ney Witmer on September 14, 2012. Born in Lancaster on September 11, 1924, he was the only child of the late Landis M. and Miriam A. Young Witmer.

Donald was a 1942 graduate of McCaskey High School. A proud veteran of World War II, Donald served in the Navy as a torpedo man aboard the U.S.S. Twiggs (DD-591), which joined the Pacific Fleet in 1944. The ship was damaged by a kamakaze strike in April 1945, was repaired, and then suffered a direct hit on June 16, 1945 while on radar picket duty off Okinawa. The ship sank within an hour and Donald was one of the 188 survivors. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his bravery. Donald's historical account of the battle has been preserved in the Naval Historical Foundation.

After the war, he worked as a master electrician at Armstrong World Industries for over 40 years. After retirement he enjoyed traveling, gardening, swimming, golfing, and spending time with family and friends. He was kind and generous, thoughtful and curious, and lived independently up until a month before his death.

Donald was a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster.

A memorial Service celebrating Donald's life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, 140 East Orange Street, Lancaster, PA on Saturday, September 7, 2019, at 3:00 PM. There will be a private interment with full military honors at the Greenwood Cemetery, Lancaster PA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to the Lancaster County Food Hub, 812 N. Queen Street, Lancaster PA. 17603 or online at [www.lancasterfoodhub.org](http://www.lancasterfoodhub.org) or the DAV- Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH45250-0301 or online at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

# Tribute Wall

P3

“ I feel so fortunate to have spent many years knowing this pillar of a man. A book by American journalist Tom Brokaw talked about the Greatest Generation ... Brokaw wrote that these men and women fought not for fame or recognition, but because it was the "right thing to. I wasn't military but working with guys like Don you get an idea of the characteristics of their greatness. I first met Don As a young 20 yr old .I also admired how he would spend the quality of things in life summer vacation in a college dorm and attending classes. He would sponsor foreign Summer guests. His wit and sharp mind was one of a kind. He had an in-depth knowledge of instrumentation. He was also a go to anytime . to discuss life experiences or if I was traveling on vacation. Don was the person you learned from. Often times the production guys would say ; , ""we need you to get Einstein here he fixed it last time."" I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to know Don and work with such greatness. Pete Scherer

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**Peter j Scherer 3rd** - September 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

P3

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**Peter j Scherer 3rd** - September 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ So very sorry to hear about Don's passing. His technical knowledge was a great help on many projects in the Floor Plant. He was always ready to assist and provide appropriate suggestions from a practical point of view. I was fortunate to know him and to have the opportunity to work with him.

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**Paul Bowers** - August 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Don was a fellow breakfast and First Presbyterian Church member who lived a good and full life. Even golf together in his nineties. Don will be missed but remembered with fondness and my condolences go out to his family.

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**Bruce Allison** - August 20, 2019 at 12:00 AM