



William D. Tidwell

June 11, 1932 - September 9, 2015

William Dieudonne “Don” Tidwell was born to John Leslie Tidwell and Ida Geraldine Carson Tidwell in June 1932 in Nampa, Idaho. He graduated from Homedale High School and attended Northern Idaho College of Education. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a masters in Geology and earned PhDs in Botany and Geology at Michigan State University. He was a professor at Eastern Washington State College and established their Geology department. He joined the faculty of Brigham Young University in 1967 in the Botany department with a specialty in paleobotany. He traveled the world collecting fossil plants and named many type specimens. He was a member of several scientific organizations and presented papers and displays at their annual meetings. He was the author of text books and field guides. He retired in 2000 and continued his research as a professor emeritus.

Don served in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict at Fort Ord, California. He was a ranger/naturalist in the National Park Service at Yosemite, Olympic National Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Blue Ridge Parkway.

He is survived by his wife, Ann and four children: Donnae, Larissa, Drannan (Sossity), Leith (Nichol); grandson, Brighton; sisters, Ardith Parsons (Mike) and Sharon Seibert; and brother, Gerald Tidwell. He was preceded in death by siblings, Jean Smith (Cal), Martha Roberts (Robert), John Tidwell, and a son, Eric Ward Tidwell.

Don enjoyed taking his students and his children on field trips, exploring, and collecting fossil plants all over the western United States. He liked reading, music, old radio shows, and vintage television. He loved family reunions and finding a new audience for his jokes in the coming generations.

Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 2015 at the Edgemont 6th Ward building located at 4056 Timpview Dr., Provo, UT. Visitation will be from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the services. Burial with military honors will follow the services at the Provo City Cemetery.

Comments



“ Dr. Tidwell was a valued mentor for me in the department of Botany and Range Science at BYU in the early 1980s. He taught me much about plant morphology and fossils and even employed me (and my new young wife!) to make slides in his lab. He was patient, generous, and funny, and I enjoyed learning from and working with him.

I am very grateful to have known him.

Dr. James B. Herrick - October 18, 2021 at 04:48 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Joe's Uncle Don's passing. Joe Passed away on August 21 at age 51 and I am sure he was there to greet him when he crossed over.

Traci Parsons - October 13, 2015 at 03:49 PM



“ Ann and Family, Sorry to hear of Dons passing. I know it's hard to lose your Companion. He was a man of many accomplishments. My sympathy to you and yours. Jean M. Bird

Ann and family,

Ann and Family Sorry to hear about the passing of Don. I know it's hard to see your companion go. He seems to have accomplished a lot in his lifetime. My sympathy to you and yours. Jean M. Bird

Jean McCandless Bird - September 13, 2015 at 07:55 PM