



Donald Leonard Avant

August 21, 1940 - December 23, 2020

Donald Leonard Avant (Don), age 80 of Hideaway, passed away on Wednesday, December 23rd, 2020 in Tyler. He was born on August 21, 1940 in Montgomery, Alabama to the late Leonard Keith and Ruth Evers Avant. Don graduated from Baldwin High School in Long Island, NY before enrolling in the University of Alabama, where he graduated with a B.S. in Commerce and Business Administration and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. While at the University of Alabama, Don met the love of his life, his wife of 58 years, Lynda Mantel Avant.

Upon graduation, Don entered Officers Candidate School within the US Navy, and earned the rank of LT(JG). Don and Lynda married in 1962, and moved to San Diego, CA before moving on to Honolulu, HI. After the Navy, Don and Lynda briefly returned to New York before moving to Dallas in 1970. After owning a successful marine and leisure boat business, Don found his true calling as a Financial Planner, first with EF Hutton and later as an Independent Advisor. In 2005, Don and Lynda moved to Hideaway, where they made numerous friends and he participated in countless activities, including serving on the Lakes Committee, Classic Car Club, Computer Club, and the Waste Water Committee. Don was a member of the First United Methodist Church - Lindale, loved college football (Roll Tide!), enjoyed playing cards, fishing, solving crossword puzzles and travelled extensively in his retirement.

Don is survived by his loving wife Lynda; children Deborah Avant Taylor and

husband Bill of Austin, Don L. Avant, Jr. and wife Meleesia of Austin; grandchildren William A. Taylor of Austin and Keith P. Taylor of Atlanta, and Olivia Avant and Nathan Donald Avant of Austin; sister Marilyn Lanctot and husband Edmund Lanctot of St. Petersburg, FL, brother-in-law Philip Mantel of Montgomery, AL, and sister-in-law Anna Mantel of Prattville, AL; nephews Philip Mantel and Eric Lanctot, and nieces Mary Frances Krause and Lisa Lanctot Lewis; and numerous loving cousins, family members and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church – Lindale (<https://www.fumclindale.org/give-online>) or to the charity of your choice. This is especially meaningful at this time when so many are in need.

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Leonard Avant*

October 05, 2023 at 02:48 AM



“ *Donald Leonard Avant*

October 05, 2023 at 12:01 AM



“ *A super human being. A person who made my life netter when I was with him..He had a wonderful sense of humor and was just a joy to be around. Loved. Lynda and his family dearly. Glad to have called him a friend. He was special.*
Jim Buchanan

jim buchanan - February 16, 2021 at 02:32 AM



“ *Don was my BIG BROTHER, my freshman year at Alabama, and I want the family to know that he was very concerned that I make my grades. He took care of me, and I have always considered him a close Brother. DON CHURCH B'HAM, AL.*

DON & BONNIE CHURCH - December 30, 2020 at 05:46 PM

JH

“ Don was my great friend, very dependable. If he told you something, you could depend on it. About three years ago Don and I had to go through cardio rehab at the same time. After three months of rehab, we decided to continue rehabbing. We decided to go to gym three to four days a week. We took turns picking each other up, always at 7:45 AM. I miss him and our daily phone calls as well as our fishing and hunting trips. Jim Hill

Jim Hill - December 30, 2020 at 02:39 PM

FS

“ Don lived across the hall at the Sigma Chi house while we were at the University of Alabama. We had many great times, as our entire brotherhood was very close. The last time I saw Don was at the "A" Day Reunion several years ago. It was great sitting with Lynda and Don sharing all the memories and catching up on everyone's lives. We will miss Don as he will be remembered as a caring and fantastic person Fred Schatz

Fred Schatz - December 30, 2020 at 01:09 PM

RB

“ I knew Don as a fraternity brother at the University of Alabama. While I have great memories of all of the Sigma Chis, Don especially stands out for his love of life. My heart goes out to Lynda and his children in this hour of their grief. All honor to his name.

Richard W. Boone, Sr. II of Sigma Chi, 1963

Richard Boone - December 30, 2020 at 01:02 PM

SP

“ Don was a wonderful person and great friend. He loved his family and his university. He'll be missed by all his poker buddies, ROMEOs and the Hideaway community. Lynda, Don, Jr. and Debra were fortunate to have such a loving person in their lives. Our hearts and prayers are with his family.

Susie Peters - December 29, 2020 at 11:40 AM

JM

“ My heart breaks for Lynda and her family. Don was such a gentleman. I so enjoyed the week we spent in Durango with Lynda and Don. We had such a good time. He will be missed in Hideaway. Sending virtual love and hugs. Judy Beth

Judy Beth McCrory - December 28, 2020 at 06:36 PM