

## The Life of Dr. Donald A. Flihs



Dr. Donald A. Flihs, Belle Glade, Fla., and formerly of rural Brown County, South Dakota, passed away at his home on May 10, 2016, at the age of 80. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 14, 2016 with the Rev. Richard Arndt and Benjamin Schroeder of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, officiating.

Don was born January 4, 1936, at the farm home of his parents, Robert and Christina Flihs, in the James-Groton area. He was the youngest of four siblings: Marvin, Irvin, Robert Jr. and sister Irene. He attended rural county grade school until the eighth grade when many of the rural schools in the area were being closed. He then attended school in Groton until the late off of his sophomore year when he accompanied his parents to a new home in

the Clewiston-Belle Glade, Fla., area. He graduated from Belle Glade High School in 1953 going on to the University of Miami earning a BBA degree. He then attended the Illinois College of Optometry where he received an O.D. of Optometry degree. He opened his optometric practice in Belle Glade in 1961 where he provided quality eye care to the Glades community for 55 years.

Don was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church for 65 years and served as an Elder, President of the Congregation, and President of the Board of Christian Education at St. Peter's Lutheran School in Belle Glade.

He was also Past-President of the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and A. R. C. Don was Chairman of the Black Gold Jubilee Committee for several years. He served on the board of Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, Board of Trustees for Glades Day School, the American Heart Association, and the Arthritis Foundation, receiving numerous awards from each. He was Vice-President of the board for Glades General Hospital during its transition to become Lakeside Medical Center. Don was awarded Belle Glade Man of the Year in 1967 and received a commendation from the city in 2011 for 50 years of continuing quality eye care to the Glades communities that he proudly called home.

Don was pre-deceased by his parents, Robert and Christina Flihs, Robert Flihs Jr. and Irene Nehls all of Belle Glade; Irvin Flihs of Claremont and Marvin Flihs of Cogswell, N.D.; two nieces, Kathy Nehls of Belle Glade and Jeannette Flihs Wegner of Bella Vista, Ark.

While living in South Dakota and attending the Groton Schools, he very much enjoyed the winter sport of ice skating and the annual Carnival of Silver Skates. He made frequent trips back to South Dakota to visit family and friends. In 2003 he was very proud to take part in his 50th class reunion in the Jungle Day parade with former classmates.

He is survived by his wife, Janis, of 50 years, daughter Michelle Flihs (Greg) Waldon, Wellington, Fla.; son Michael (Michelle) Flihs, Belle Glade; granddaughter Lauryn Flihs and Greg Walden, Jr., and great granddaughters Mylah and Vannah Walden. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.