



## Donald M. Hawkins

October 15, 1921 - March 29, 2017

Mineral Point - Donald Mathew Hawkins, age 95, passed away peacefully at Agrace HospiceCare on Wednesday March 29, 2017.

He was born on October 15, 1921 on the family farm in Hammond, WI, the second of Matt and Elva (Keating) Hawkins' six children. He graduated from Hammond High School in 1939 and began attending UW – River Falls. He served as a First Lieutenant in the US Army during WWII from 1942 to 1946. After the war he returned to River Falls, graduating in 1947 with a degree in agricultural education. He later continued his education, earning a Master's Degree in agricultural education from UW – Madison in 1968.

He taught vocational agriculture at Arena High School from 1947 to 1951, and at Mineral Point High School from 1951 to 1983. In 1952, Theresa O'Connor of Blue River began teaching at Mineral Point High School. Don and Theresa (Tess) were married in 1953.

He was actively involved with the Iowa County Fair, serving as President of the Fair Board for many years, and was a member of the Kiwanis Club. He also served as the chair of the fund raising committee for the Mineral Point Library remodeling project, and after his retirement from teaching, he served two terms on the Mineral Point School Board. He was a member of St. Mary's and St. Paul's Catholic Church.

In his retirement years he traveled extensively throughout the United States, also visiting Cuba, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, South America, and south east Asia.

Also in retirement, he was actively involved in a prairie restoration effort at Bloomfield Hills near Dodgeville and two oak savanna restorations in Mineral Point (adjacent to elementary and high schools) where he especially enjoyed collaborating with third grade and high school students. In recognition of his efforts, he received the Rod Nilsestuen Award for working lands preservation from the Wisconsin Alliance for Land Trusts in 2015.

He is survived by daughter Geralyn Hawkins, Fitchburg, WI and son Timothy (Lynn) of Whitefish Bay, WI, two granddaughters, Meghan and Michelle Hawkins, two siblings, Mary (Chuck) Parker and Lory (Marlys) Hawkins, as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and former students.

He was preceded in death by his wife Theresa and granddaughter Kelsey Hawkins, his sister Catherine (Marlen) Land, and two brothers Jim (Dolores) Hawkins and Tom Hawkins.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017 at Ss. MARY & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH in Mineral Point. Monsignor Daniel Ganshert will officiate. Burial will be held in St. Mary's Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites accorded by the Mineral Point VFW and American Legion. Friends may call from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday at the GORGEN FUNERAL HOME in Mineral Point and also from 10:00 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. on Monday at the church. A rosary service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Mineral

Point chapter of the FFA Alumni, the Mineral Point Library or St. Mary's and St. Paul's church. Or consider an alternative memorial: teaching a child a skill, becoming involved in a community organization, or planting native plants in your yard.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald M. Hawkins*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *I hope he passed peacefully, he was a very nice man. My sympathy for his family, especially Geralyn. My thoughts are with you. Jill*

**Jill Corcoran** - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM



“ *Don was the consummate teaching professional. In my 31 years of teaching at MPHS, there was no one who garnered or deserved more respect than Don Hawkins. A life of 95 years well lived and whose influence no doubt will live on and on. My prayers for two of my favorite students, Geralyn and Tim*

**Bob Johnson** - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM



“ *Geralyn, Tim and other surviving relatives. I know Don loved all of you dearly. Theresa used to call us "Donald's boys". I was one of many that Don helped guide and motivate to follow in his footsteps. At a recent visit, Don advised us to leave a foot print for others to follow. Always one of the best mentors, I had. May God be with Don in Heaven!*

**Ron Weier** - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM

RW

“Geralyn, Tim and grandchildren. Your dad and grandpa was the finest mentor anyone could want or have. He inspired many students to reach for more than they thought possible. With all 10 boys in our family that he taught, each of us has special memories to tell. On of the best was when our dad was injured in a equipment accident. Oldest brother Jim had to stay at home for about 6 months to keep the farm running. It did not look like he would be able to graduate with his class. Mr. Hawkins went to the school administrators and got permission to deliver Jim's lessons each day. He also picked up the completed work each day. Jim graduated with his class. He was May Don enjoy the gates of heaven as he enters his final resting place. We all hope to be remembered similar to the footprint that Don left for us to follow. Ron Weier

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**Ron Weier** - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM

RF

“Your dad was a well respected pillar of the community and a joy to know.

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**Richard Ferrell** - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM

SF

“If a community is defined by its citizens, what an outstanding example Mr. Hawkins was of the community of Mineral Point. He did so many selfless acts, contributed in so many good-citizen ways, and affected and inspired so many other people in the community to learn, appreciate, and actually do more things that made Mineral Point BETTER. Geralyn and Tim, the impact of your dad's engaging life on our special community will continue to be felt long after all of us are gone. I am so sorry for your loss and so thankful that your dad's footprint will always be felt in Mineral Point.

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**Steve Finkelmeyer** - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM

JW

“ Don was a wonderful Man in all orders I was a student and friend.

jackie weier - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM

BC

“ Tim and GERALYN, I am so saddened on the passing of your father. He was one of those special people who you wished could live forever. He always had something genuine and kind to say. I admired his ability to contribute throughout his life. Mr. Hawkins life was an inspiration to many and he will be greatly missed.

Becky Carey - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM

SH

“ I am greatly saddened on the loss of this wonderful individual. Don was a man that took time to express his appreciation for something that he felt was important. I learned this when I personally received a thoughtfully written thank you note for presenting "The Nutcracker" at the Opera House. I was (and still am) deeply touched and extremely appreciative that someone would take the time to be so thoughtful. This was clearly the type of individual that Don was and we should all aspire to be as kind. Deepest condolences.

Summer Hamille - April 28, 2018 at 01:26 AM



“ My sympathies to GERALYN and Tim. Your dad was a great teacher and taught many useful things I still practice today. Steve Argall

April 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM