



SERVICES

Williams Funeral Chapel
1400 South Maguire St
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-6800

 **Website**
 **View Map**

RESOURCES

 JUSTESEN Pages (58)
See More >
 JUSTESEN Mentions
See More >



DR. DON ROBERT JUSTESEN

1930 - 2014 | Obituary | Condolences

Dr. Don R. Justesen, 84, passed peacefully at the Veterans Home in Warrensburg, MO., on Sunday, November 9th, 2014. Don suffered a number of years from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was surrounded by loving family members. Don is survived by his wife of 56 years, Patricia Ann; children, Rick Justesen, Joni Gosselin, Tracy Winsor and Tony Justesen; grandchildren, Erick, Robby, Sabrina, Chaz, Chase, Alec, Cassidy, Mara and Reid. Don was born on March 8, 1930, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Richard C. Justesen and Swedish immigrant Elizabeth A. Gustaveson. In his youth, Don was an accomplished drummer and played in a local jazz band. In 1948 he enlisted in the [U.S. Navy](#) and was trained as an aviation electronics technician. He entered service during the [Korean War](#) in 1948 and was rapidly promoted to AT1 which he held at the time of his honorable discharge in 1952. In the 1960's, Don received a commission in the USNR as LTJG and was promoted to LT while doing research work in collaboration with Walter- Reed Army Medical Center. Don received a B.A. in 1955, and an M.A. in 1957, with emphasis in psychology and philosophy, as well as a Ph.D. in Neuropsychology from the University of Utah in 1959. His Ph.D. research involved neuro studies on animals, electrical stimulation, and the functional neuroanatomy of the vertebrate brain. His dissertation explored behavioral effects of intense microwave irradiation. Don chaired the Psychology department at Westminster College in Salt Lake City from 1959 to 1962. He moved his family to the Kansas City, MO area when he became employed as Director of Neuropsychology and Behavioral Radiology Research Laboratories with the Veterans Administration Medical Center. He held this position until his retirement in 1995. Don was also a professor of neuropsychology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine for many years. He was elected as president of the Bioelectrical Magnetic Society (BEMS) and later served as editor-in-chief of bioelectromagnetics. Don was multiply published with a number of scientific papers credited to his name throughout his career. He was a member of MENSA International (High IQ Society). Don was greatly admired among his colleagues for his wit, intellect and benevolent nature; he was affectionately known by his colleagues as "professor" or "Justy". On February 14, 1958, Don married his sweetheart, Patricia Larson, who was working as a stenographer in the Federal Court under Judge Willis Ritter (ironically, Pat thought Don was one of the convicts when he first asked her out). Patricia currently resides in Overland Park, KS. Don's children recall how their dad loved to cook and would often be found in the kitchen preparing something delicious for the evening meal. He would sit at a small table surrounded by his two cats, Puffy and Morris, as he would read, write, or work crossword puzzles in between cooking assignments. They recalled how he lovingly prepared Limpa bread for the firemen who volunteered their time on Christmas Eve; how he worked so attentively at preparing his special spaghetti sauce that his labor of love had him literally sweating right into the sauce; how he meticulously prepared filet mignon cutting away every trace of fat from the meat with an electric knife, then generously giving up samples to his cats when they beckoned. His children remember him as an intelligent and gentle man, dedicated to his profession, and as one who always encouraged pursuit of their



Funeral Et

Expert advice
and say whe
dies.

educational goals. The children expressed how they greatly miss their gentle giant. Don requested cremation followed by a private family ceremony. Condolences may be expressed at Williams Funeral Chapel www.williamsfuneralchapel.net. The family would like to thank the caregivers and staff of the Warrensburg Missouri Veterans Home. Their loving sacrifice of service and care of Dr. Justesen is greatly appreciated. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to the Veteran's Home at 1300 Veteran's Way, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Published in Kansas City Star on Nov. 16, 2014

[- READ LESS](#)

SHARE



[LISTEN TO OBITUARY](#)

REMEMBER

SHARE A MESSAGE, PHOTO, OR VIDEO BELOW

ADD A MEMORY OR CONDOLENCE TO THE GUEST BOOK

Enter your message here

ADD MESSAGE

"I was fortunate to be Dr. Justesen's secretary at the VA..."

- Carmen Wesson

[VIEW ALL MESSAGES](#) 2

Please add or record a video for the family of
DON JUSTESEN

[ADD A VIDEO](#) +

Please add a photo and share in the life story
for DON JUSTESEN

[ADD A PHOTO](#) +

Resources

- > [Send Funeral Flowers](#)
- > [View Funeral Home Details](#)
- > [Donate to Charity](#)
- > [How To Submit An Obituary](#)

Find Advice and Support

- > [Funeral Etiquette](#)
- > [Sympathy and Condolence Advice](#)
- > [Grief Support Groups](#)
- > [Myths About Grief](#)

[BACK TO TODAY'S OBITUARIES](#)