

Closed Album - Don Garrett

Don Garrett was born in San Francisco on March 16, 1935. He served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1966. He moved to the Reno area in August 1999 retiring as a hospital administrator after 30 years. His wife of 39 years passed away in 2008. He joined the stamp club in 2000. Soon after joining the club, he gave the club members a presentation on Latin America.

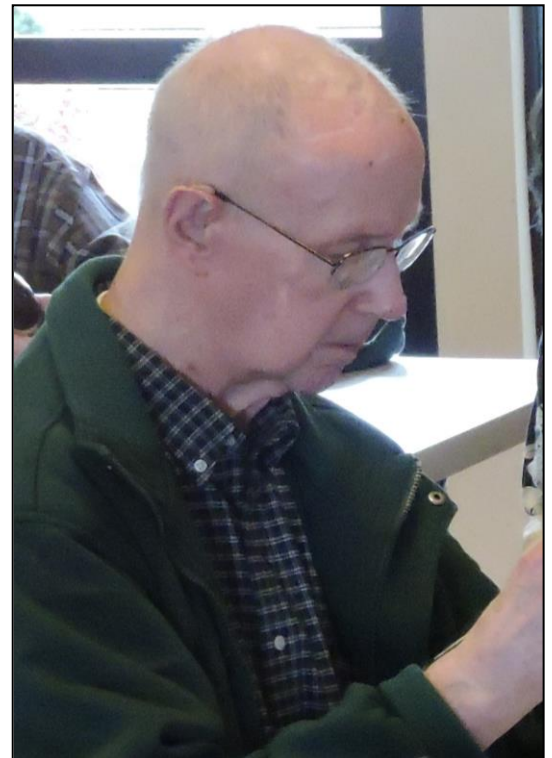
Don and his wife adopted their son, Jason, in 1975. Jason reports that his father started collecting stamps in 1994 and Jason started in 1995.

Don collected U.S. stamps and covers, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain, Canada, and China. His topical area of interest was trains on stamps as well as covers.

Jason used to collect baseball cards and when those got too expensive his father gave him some U.S. sports stamps and Jason went from there and have collected them ever since. Jason "collects everything" now.

Both Don and Jason were stamp club members. Don enjoyed the stamp club very much attending almost every meeting until last year when his health declined, and he couldn't drive anymore. He always enjoyed the people, attending social events with the picnic and Christmas party the favorites. Don also helped at the Reno Stamp & Cover Show for many years.

Jason Garrett says his dad was "at peace" when he passed away in his sleep on June 9, 2020.



Don Garrett at NSSS meeting end of 2018

Remembrance by Jeanne Paquin, a Nevada Stamp Study Society member who lives in Las Vegas.

If you never had a chance to know Don, then you missed someone who was kind, sweet and interesting.

During many club meetings he sat near me. He was watching and paying attention to everything, offering me a few suggestions. It was his idea about the creation of the Blue Sheets (donations) at club auctions. He believed the club should benefit from donated items. I proposed his idea at a board meeting, which was adopted.

Years ago, he found out that I helped Advocate for the Elderly, (my business at that time) and asked for my help in figuring out what he should do for himself. His son advised him to sell his home and find a retirement community he would enjoy. He was not sure how to go out about this and was hesitant as to which community he should focus on. In exchange for a stamp (an Australian Christmas Island stamp sheet) I agreed to help him look at several retirement communities. We discussed his preferences, situation and his wants. After about a month, he made a decision; but it was not any I suggested. He instead listened to his family. Then he disappeared from the club for a few months.

About 3 months later, he attended a club meeting, and I was happy to see his smile. He picked a seat next to me and invited me to lunch afterward. I agreed, and after the meeting, we headed to a restaurant. While there, I asked him a few questions about his situation. He told me, he had followed his son's advice; however, he had not listed his home for sale. Now he was glad he had a home to return too, since things did not go so well at the retirement community. His biggest complaint was the food, it was awful. He did not blend in very well, and there was not one stamp collector in the bunch. He felt like he had let me down, because he did not utilize my suggestions, and he apologized for his actions. I assured him, all that mattered was his happiness.

He was always nice and had a great smile. I was sorry to hear of his passing. I will continue to think of him as a "forever" friend.