



## Captain Donald Edward Butenshon

June 27, 1927 - October 17, 2015

Donald Edward Butenshon

June 6, 1927 - October 17, 2015

“For those who walk hand in hand with Jesus, every day is a holy day before God.” -D.E.B.

Donald Butenshon's days were indeed focused on Christ from his beginnings to the end. Born in Castle Rock, WA to Lutheran parents, Rev. Edward and Frieda Butenshon, ministry and service were his focus. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Tacoma, WA, and later he spent most of his growing up years in Pendleton, OR with his three sisters, Lucille, Lillian, and Verna Jean. He was an avid student but also participated in church events, drama, Boy Scouts, high school and college track, basketball, and football, band, shipbuilding, and ranch work.

Donald received the holy call to ministry right before his high school graduation. He attended Capital University, Columbus, OH in pursuit of a history degree and did special studies to equip him in serving psychiatric patients, and did Bible studies in an orphanage. Upon graduation, he entered the Lutheran Seminary, and served as an intern in Oregon City, OR. He received his Master of Theology, as well as a Bachelor of Divinity degree, and was ordained on June 12, 1952.

In the same month, he was married to a Lutheran, blond beauty, Jean Arlene Knoefel, whom he had met while on his pastoral internship in Oregon City.

With Jean by his side in all things Lutheran, they had three children, Kristi, Keith, and Karol, and they served congregations in Florence, OR; Cheney, WA; Los Angeles, CA; Hemet, CA; and Lake Elsinore, CA. Added to their joy was 9 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. They were the epitome of model parents and dedicated church workers, striving continually to preach the saving message of Jesus Christ.

The highlight of his life was joining the Navy Chaplain Corps. He loved his duty at the Navy Hospital, Oakland, CA, and his assignment as the Chaplain of the USNS Patrick. He made 22 voyages out of the port of San Francisco, mostly to the Far East. After 3 years, he transitioned to the Naval Reserves and parish life. He continued to serve the US Navy faithfully, earning the rank of Captain.

Donald enjoyed studying his Bible, preaching, counseling, traveling, camping, church league softball and bowling, writing poetry and devotionals, hymns and music, and was known for being a man of integrity, one that reached out in friendship, and one who could also be quite funny and whimsical. In retirement, he was the CEO of a food distribution center for needy people, and tirelessly cared for his wife for 9 years after she suffered a stroke.

Don's final illness couldn't daunt him; he gave a hospital orderly the message of the cross on his way to surgery, and sang "There She is, Miss America" to most of his nurses. Joined now with Jesus, and his wife Jean, he once said: "Jesus reigns from the celestial, unfading, eternal throne of God in Heaven. He remains the King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! He lives and reigns forever. Give Him your life to rule. -D.E.B.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers that donations can be made to the Faith Lutheran Church choir fund. <http://www.faithmenifee.com/>

# Previous Events

## Military Honors and Graveside Service

OCT 30. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (PT)

Riverside National Cemetery  
22495 Van Buren Blvd  
Riverside, CA 92518

## Viewing

OCT 30. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (PT)

First Faith Lutheran Church  
28200 Portsmouth Dr Sun City, CA 92586  
Sun City, CA 92586

## Funeral and Celebration of Life

OCT 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

First Faith Lutheran Church  
28200 Portsmouth Dr Sun City, CA 92586  
Sun City, CA 92586

## Reception

OCT 30. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (PT)

First Faith Lutheran Church  
28200 Portsmouth Dr Sun City, CA 92586  
Sun City, CA 92586

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Captain Donald Edward Butenshon*



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**Reflecting on Memories** - October 24, 2015 at 09:52 AM



Karol Steiner

*Thank you Captain Roger of Sonoran Winds Hospice for making this fabulous tribute video of our dad and grandpa. Beautifully done!*

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**Karol Steiner** - October 27, 2015 at 12:42 AM



Kim Morris

*Awesome video! Amazing memories of your dad's life. thanks for sharing.*

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**Kim Morris** - October 27, 2015 at 12:56 AM



CR

*Welcome and the dog tags, blanket and DVD are on the way for the service Friday.*

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**Chaplain Roger Rustad** - October 27, 2015 at 08:21 PM

AF

*It has been an honor and a privilege to be able to care for such an amazing man, sailor, and spiritual leader. Our deepest condolences to all of Donald's family and friends.*

*To my shipmate CPT Butenshon, may God grant you fair winds and following seas, until we meet in the next life.*

*AJ Ferrio  
Sonoran Winds Hospice*

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**AJ Ferrio** - October 29, 2015 at 05:49 PM

CR

*To Karol and the Butenshon Family*

*"Truly a great man has fallen in Israel: 2 Samuel 3:38...and he will be missed. I know that this is a very difficult time for each one of you. It was my pleasure to be a Chaplain's Chaplain and be Don's last new friend.*

*It was also a special privilege for the Sonoran Winds Hospice team to provide care to him in his last days and make those last days the best they could be. He always blessed us more each visit. When I was putting together his memorial tribute movie, I could tell that he had a loving family and he was a loving father and she set a wonderful example of how to live your life blessing others. Hang on to all those wonderful memories, and I know that he wanted each of his children and other family members to live their life following his example that he set for each of them.*

*Just know that you do not have to go through this bereavement journey alone and our experienced bereavement team is ready to heal with willing with compassionate hearts when you or any of the family members need some extra support. We also have many different resources to support you and your family, and we not let you go until you are ready.*

*I know that we are all getting homesick for heaven and I know that you can't wait to see that smile again and feel those hugs.  
Condolences from the entire Sonoran Winds Hospice Team.*

*Chaplain Roger Rustad*

*Roger@SonoranWindsHospice.com*

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**Chaplain Roger Rustad** - October 31, 2015 at 12:13 AM



“ 80 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Reflecting on Memories** - October 24, 2015 at 09:51 AM