



Donald Joseph McGarvey

October 1, 1936 - July 22, 2021

A native of Washington D.C., Donald J. McGarvey passed away on July 22, 2021 in Sarasota, Florida. He was born on October 1, 1936 to Charles Patrick and Margaret Rose McGarvey of Glover Park, Washington D.C.

Don served his country in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany, with an honorable discharge in 1964. Don then joined the Washington Post where he worked in production supervisory roles for 39 years. Introduced by a friend at the Post, he met his widowed wife, Carolyn, with whom he shared over 40 wonderful years.

Don had a love for history, from Civil War battles to railroads, but especially the circus. The couple relocated to Sarasota from Maryland in 2003 where Don joined the vibrant circus community. He immersed himself, volunteering at the Sailor Circus, Circus Sarasota, and the Ringling Museum.

Don had a special affection for Sailor Circus, known as the Greatest Little Show on Earth, and the youth who practiced the many cooperative skills necessary to present their dazzling performances. At the Ringling Museum Don with his wife Carolyn beside him, donated 18 joyful years creating elements for the Howard Tibbals Learning Center's magnificent 3,800 square foot miniature model depiction of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. He also helped restore John Ringling's private railcar, the Wisconsin, on display at the Ringling Museum. His work lives on for all to enjoy.

Donald is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn Funnell Porter McGarvey; sons Dr. Dean Porter and wife Dr. Veronica Porter of Houston, TX; Andrew Porter and wife Amanda of Greencastle, PA; Neil Porter and wife Kelly of Apex, NC; grandchildren Austin, Lauren, Anna, and Kirk Porter.

A private ceremony will be held September 7, 2021 at Sarasota National Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Sailor Circus, 2075 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL 34339.