

Stu: Here's the summary (but lengthy) write-up I did on Don Pierce - I know I sent you a copy. This is more about OAFs than Don, but it does have the AGS importance embedded in there (to include hosting the AGS website by his son Steve - Steve didn't come up with that, Don did!) Let me know if you need me to do anything more. - Mike

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Last week, on Thursday 5 December 2024, I attended services for our AGS long-time member Eldon (Don) Pierce who died on 21 October 2024. Several long-term AGS connections via Don. Along with Howard Henry and Herb Palm, Don was a founder of the OAFs (Online Ancestor Finders), the first Wednesday of the month noon lunch group of AGS members and friends. OAFs originally met at various restaurants and pizza parlors, then was moved by Howard to the Shark Reef Cafe at the BioPark for several years. When Shark Reef remodeled and went to an 'order at the counter' format, the group moved to the Copper Canyon Cafe under the auspices of the late John Farris. When John passed, Karen Jones took up the OAFs gauntlet and asked me to represent the group at the Christ the King Anglican Church.

Don's son Steve has hosted the AGS website gratis for many years. Steve lives 'primarily' in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis) but purchased a 50s vintage home that Don proudly showed Bonnie and me a few years ago. With the Life magazines on the coffee table and the pink princess phones, it looked as if the doctor who previously owned it had just stepped out and left it as it was in 1952.

During the eulogy, the pastor noted that he was still old-school, in that he looked up Don's obituary through Google. It is [here](#). I had known Don for many years but did not realize he had earned a Bronze Star in the Air Force. The pastor noted that the family had already interred Don's ashes that Monday, 2 Dec 2024, in Santa Fe National Cemetery. His gravesite location.

Kathleen "Kat" Blake, 'Don's Girl Friday' in the obituary and the usual driver/companion for Don at OAFs lunches, was quite grief-stricken but very much appreciated my presence from the OAFs. Following the service, I went through the receiving line and re-introduced myself to Don's daughter Elizabeth, and granddaughter Grace who currently operate Don's Book Store on San Mateo Blvd. In his later years, Don would handle the Internet book sales, but I understand that it has now been contracted out. I also met Don's son Michael. Steve was not there for the service, but Michael told me that he would be joining the family that weekend.

Don's FindAGrave memorial is [here](#); with the new policy for the recently deceased, the memorial will not appear fully populated on site until the end of January 2025.

As the pastor noted, Don was a gentleman as well as a gentleman. Kat told me she will continue to attend OAFs lunches.

- Michael A Blackledge

for Karen Jones and the OAFs.