



Donald E. Sandidge

April 7, 1937 - February 17, 2013

Dateline: Alton

Donald E. Sandidge, 75, died at 3:35 a.m. Sunday, February 17, 2013 at his home. Born April 7, 1937 in Peoria, he was the son of Thomas E. and Mary Ellen (Canaday) Sandidge. A graduate of Alton High School in 1956, he lettered in football and baseball. He was the quarterback in 1955 and 1956 and the team captain in 1956. Mr. Sandidge answered his country's call and served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958-1961. He earned the rank of Sergeant (E-5). He returned from the service to join the Alton police force as a patrolman. He was promoted to detective and then earned the title of Chief of Detectives from 1968-1985 and then became Captain. In 1986 he became Chief of Police and was named Commander of the Greater St. Louis Major Case Squad, the only Illinois officer to command the squad. While serving on the police force he was a member of the Alton American Legion, became a life member of the VFW Post 1308, served as Treasurer of the Vietnam Memorial Committee, served as board member of the American Cancer Society, and board member of the Salvation Army. He became a life member of the Southern Illinois Police Chiefs' Association, a member of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He served as past president of the Alton Area boys Tackle Football, Inc. and was a member of the K.C. Quarterback Club. He continued his education and earned a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement and Public

Administration from the University of Illinois-Springfield. He later graduated from the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia and took post-graduate classes in public administration at U of I. After a distinguished career in law enforcement he retired in 1989. He then worked as a probation officer for Madison County. A lifelong Alton resident, he felt called to contribute more to the community and was elected Mayor of Alton from 1997-2009. As Mayor, Mr. Sandidge fixed Alton's infrastructure, repaving hundreds of miles of streets and roads. He strengthened our neighborhoods by demolishing derelict houses and problem housing projects. He worked to keep our good doctors and hospitals in Alton and attracted new businesses and developers to our community on Homer Adams Parkway. He was inducted to the Alton High School Wall of Fame. Mr. Sandidge was dedicated to service and gave over 50 years to public service. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sheri (Whipple) Sandidge, two children, Dene Sandidge, and Don E. Sandidge II and his wife Leah, three grandchildren, Chris Sullivan, Chandra and Donetta Sandidge all of Alton, mother-in-law, Golda Whipple of Brighton, aunt, Joann Ripper of Pekin, four sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law, Denny Dailey of Texas, Joy Whipple of Texas, Genell Mills of Alton, and Melody (John) Tigo of Carlinville, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Thomas E. Sandidge Jr., and his father-in-law, Dennis Whipple. Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, February 22, 2013 at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Alton. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 23, 2013 at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church. Monsignor Kenneth Steffen and Deacon William Kessler will officiate. Memorials may be made to BJC Hospice or the Marine Corps League. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery in Alton with full military honors. Following the committal service, a luncheon will be served at the Knights of Columbus Hall on East 4th Street in Alton. Pallbearers include; Donald Sandidge II, Christopher Sullivan, Scott Robertson, Paul Steinbrueck, Micah Mills, Douglas Strohbeck, Rodney Caffey, and Tim Palen. Honorary pallbearers are; James Hernandez, Robert Lahlein, Thomas Boerner, James

Casper, Ron Aldridge, Don Lovell, Al Charleston, and Bill Ogden. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements.

[PDF Printable Version](#)

Tribute Wall



“ Donald E. Sandidge

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Donald E. Sandidge

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ A good and honest man has been called away from our midst. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Richard & Shirley Patterson - February 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I first met Mayor Sandidge in 1996 when I started working as a freelance reporter for the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

He was so gracious to me, and always very patient, too! He had an infectious smile and kind eyes.

I had nothing but admiration for this man. He was a good soul, and I know he will be greatly missed by the whole community.

Rosemary Thornton - February 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ With sincere sympathy. Don was a great man and will be truly missed. Homer

Homer Henke - February 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ R. Lewis has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

R. Lewis - February 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you. Don was a great man and was caring and helped out everyone and so devoted the the City of Alton and it's people. He will be greatly missed.

Mary Lou Jones & Lucille Stade - February 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VE

“ Sheri, Ed and I are so sorry for your loss. You and your family have our deepest thoughts of sympathy.

Ed and Claudine Vitatoe

Vernon - February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MZ

“ So sorry Dene for the loss of your father and Chris for the loss of your grandfather. I know he meant so much to both of you. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mary Jo Zykan - February 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Sharon & family,

You are in our thoughts & Prayers. I am very glad I had the honer of getting to know Don I feel truly blessed!

Love Becky & Robin Darnell

Becky & Robin Darnell - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ We are very sorry to hear about Don. You have a thoughts and prayers and deepest sympathy.

Mary & Jake - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ WE ARE SO SORRY FOR THE LOSS OF MR.SANDIDGE...THE CITIZENS OF ALTON HAS LOST A VERY SPECIAL PERSON, HE WAS A WONDERFUL MAYOR,FRIEND,FATHER,HUSBAND, AND GRANDFATHER,GOD BLESS WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU...HUGS

JIM & SUSAN WILBURN OETKEN - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Marv and I were sadden to learn of Don's death, As he and his son played football with our son Darrin way back when, But what a role model for all of these young boys to see. My heart and prayers go out to all of your family at this hour need. He will be missed by all who knew him well and in the Alton area too. God Bless Him

Marv and Karen Bock - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *To the family and many friends of Don Sandige.*

I extend my deepest Sympathy to you all.

I knew Don for many years as a Policeman and as Mayor. I found Don to be the Finest Man that I have encountered in my life. We have lost one of, what I call the Old Timers. We will always remember his smiling face and his Good Humor.

Sincerely

Kenny Beemer

Kenneth Beemer - February 20, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear Sheri,

You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Don was a wonderful caring husband, grandfather and mayor who will be missed.

Sincerely,

Sara Wuellner Moore

Taylor Moore and

Morgan Moore

Sara Wuellner Moore - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Don will be greatly missed but never forgotten, God Bless him and his entire family.*

Jim and Sue Sewell

Sue Sewell - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM