

Donald Edward Riechard passed away on January 15, 2025, less than two hours before his 89th birthday. At his request, there was no funeral or memorial service. South Care Cremation and Funeral Society was in charge of his cremation.

“Donnie”, as he was referred to by family and friends, was born January 16, 1936 near Frankford, Missouri to Ed and Margaret Riechard. In 1954, he graduated from Frankford High School and began college at the University of Missouri, where he enrolled in the ROTC program. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Zoology in 1958 and graduated as a First Lieutenant in the US Army. In 1960, Donnie married his sweetheart, Katherine, who lived next-door to his family in Frankford. With the help of a National Science Foundation grant, he earned his Master of Science in Botany in 1962 from the University of West Virginia. He completed his Ph.D. in Biology, Science Education and Chemistry at Ohio State University in 1970.

In 1970, Donnie was hired to join the faculty of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia as a scientist and professor. He taught classes in the department of Educational Studies and taught seminars in the Biology department. During his career at Emory, he researched and published articles about “Concept Development in Young Children.” He also wrote articles defending both religion and science that were published in the *Lutheran Standard*. He also served on the Board of Directors as a scientist and advisor for the Atlanta Zoo. Dr. Riechard retired from Emory University in 2000.

Donnie was an avid gardener, loved to fish, work on cars, and build extensive model railroads. In his later years, Donnie spent many hours cheering for his grandson, Chandler, at baseball games.

Donnie was preceded in death by his parents Ed and Margaret Riechard, two sisters Marjorie Hamilton (Floyd) and Lily Ann Galloway (Robert), two nephews Steve Hamilton (Debby) and Dan Galloway (Wanda). Survivors include his wife Katherine, daughter Eileen Riechard Drew (Jeff), grandson Chandler Ahrens (Olivia), nephew Don Hamilton (Marilyn) and niece Lisa Cheesebrough (Craig).

Donations can be made in his name to the Atlanta Zoo at <https://give.zooatlanta.org>