

Reverend Donald Edgar Ellerman was called home in the early morning hours of July 9, 2019. He was born in Quincy, IL on April 17, 1951 to Elmo Arthur and Marjorie Dean (McNay) Ellerman. He graduated from Quincy Senior High School before enlisting in the United States Air Force on December 3, 1969 and honorably discharged July 3, 1973. He was stationed in Texas, Mississippi, Taiwan, and Italy.

He met the love of his life, Gladys E. (Leason) Ellerman when she was backpacking through Europe while he was stationed in Italy. They were married after a whirlwind romance on September 12, 1972 in the mayor's office in Bindisi, Italy and then had a ceremony with family and friends on September 26, 1972 at the San Vito Air Station Chapel. They were blessed with three amazing daughters, Kristy (Shawn) Runge of St. Louis, MO, Susan (Theodore decd. 2018) Leung of Gurnee, IL, and Sarah (Matthew) Sund of Madison, WI.

After working 9 years with the United States Postal Service, Don answered God's call and began his ministry as a faithful servant. He graduated from John Woods Community College with an associate degree in accounting in 1979. After receiving his Bachelor of Theology from Quincy College in 1982, moved with his family to Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO where he obtained his Masters of Divinity in 1985 and was ordained in the United Church of Christ. During his ministry he served four churches, Southminster Presbyterian Church in Crestwood, MO (1983-1985), Immanuel United Church of Christ in Latimer, IA (1985-1993), Calvary Memorial United Church of Christ in Wauwatosa, WI (1993-2001), and St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Saukville, WI (2002-2011). When Don and Gladys retired they moved to Fairhaven Senior Services, a retirement community in Whitewater, WI. He also served on the WI Conference Board of Directors and represented Fairhaven at the CHHSM (Council for Health and Human Services Ministries).

Don loved his 9 grandchildren, Corbin, Ashlyn, Gavin, & Adilyn Runge; Abigail, Justin, & Emma Leung, and Isaac & Ellie Sund. He was an avid biker and taught all 9 of his grandchildren how to ride. He missed his lifetime goal of 100,000 miles, by only reaching 93,047 miles in 22 years. He also loved camping, tree trimming with his chain saws, gardening, and farming.

He is preceded in death by his son-in-law, Theodore W. Leung; sister, Constance J. (Ellerman) Mayfield; brothers, William E. & Richard E. Ellerman, and both his parents Elmo & Marjorie Ellerman.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys, of 46 years; 3 daughters - Kristy, Susan, & Sarah; 2 son-in-laws – Shawn & Matthew; 9 grandchildren; sister, Mary Jane Ellerman; uncle, Robert (Doc) Ellerman and nieces & nephews.

In lieu of flowers, we request memorials to the following organization:

Fairhaven Foundation  
c/o Fairhaven Senior Services  
435 W. Starin Rd.  
Whitewater, WI 53190

The visitation and memorial service will be July 20, 2019 at:

Middleton Community Church – United Church of Christ (UCC)  
645 Schewe Rd  
Middleton, WI 53562  
(608) 831-4694

Visitation 9 am to 11 am and Memorial Service at 2 pm with coffee fellowship to follow.