The Celebration of the Life of
Donald W. Carson

January 13, 1933 - February 1, 2018

In life, he was a loving family man and friend whose job was to teach and inspire.

In death, he shall rest easy, having been loved in return and knowing that his job was well done.
Donald W. Carson was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend, who will forever be known as a newsmen, revered professor, world traveler, and basketball and theater enthusiast.

Don taught hundreds of students during his nearly 30 years at the University of Arizona School of Journalism, keeping in touch with many even after he retired in January 1997. He also was a reporter and associate editor for the Arizona Daily Star from 1957 to 1961 and 1967 to 1968, and was a newsmen for the Associated Press in Washington, D.C., and Phoenix from 1961 to 1966.

His list of accolades and community involvement is lengthy, but his family was the most important aspect of his life. He took care of his wife of 61 years, Helen, during the last years of her life. Following her death in March 2016, he enjoyed spending time with his three grown children and their spouses, grandchildren, and long-time friends and former students.

The son of Tucson homesteaders, Marian and Francis “Kit” Carson, and brother of Virgil Carson, Don always cared about others. He was an avid tennis player, who volunteered to teach the sport to underprivileged youth. He also was involved with the Arizona Daily Star Sportsmen’s Fund, which has sent tens of thousands of Southern Arizona children to camp since it was founded in 1947.

After his retirement, he served on the board of the Little Chapel of All Nations, served as a public member of the Arizona Supreme Court’s Disciplinary Commission and on the State Bar’s Board of Governors. In those latter two roles, he fought to make disciplinary records available online.

In retirement, he went from a lifetime of observing politics to being an activist. Beginning in 2002, he volunteered for more than a decade for Democrat Congressman Raul Grijalva. Don also helped other candidates throughout the years and was part of the effort to eliminate the payday loan industry in 2006.

Don and Helen were long-time season ticket holders to UA basketball games. They also loved the theater, attending all types of performances, from the UA to community and professional productions.

They both enjoyed meeting the performers, including actress Joan Roberts, who played Laurey in the original Broadway production of Oklahoma in 1943, and Shona Lindsay, a British actress who was the youngest woman to play Christine in Phantom of the Opera. They originally met on the tube when Don was teaching in London in 1990. Nine years later, Don and Helen went to a matinee performance of I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, which Lindsay starred in. They sent her
a note, saying they’d be at the stage door if she had a moment to chat. To their
delight, she came bouncing out in her bathrobe and bare feet to say hello.

They were world travelers, with Don using his skills on many occasions to travel
abroad to teach others about journalism. England was just one of many locations
they visited. Don was a visiting lecturer/professor in Sweden, Mexico, Bolivia and
Costa Rica, and was a three-time Fulbright Scholar to Quito, Ecuador. Don and
Helen loved traveling to Mazatlan and San Diego for beach vacations, but also
traveled to Australia, Ireland and British Columbia.

During his career, Don worked at different newspapers during the summer
months, giving his family wonderful travel experiences while also keeping current
on newsroom skills and technology. The family spent summers in San Diego,
Denver, Los Angeles and Miami.

At the UA, he served as head of the Journalism Department from 1978 to 1985.
During those years and as professor from 1966 to 1996, he initiated many
programs and publications, including the Pretentious Idea, Community News
Service and a student exchange program with the Autonomous University of
Guadalajara.

One of his priorities was to diversify newsrooms. His work in that arena was
recognized by such organizations as the Hispanic Professional Action Committee,
the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Conference of
Editorial Writers.

He also was involved with the Maynard Institute, the nation’s top minority-
oriented news organization and sponsor of the Editing Program for Minority
Journalists, a summer program that was housed at the UA for 20 years.

He received many honors. His most recent was as an inaugural member of the UA
Journalism School Hall of Fame. He is also in the Arizona Newspaper Association
Hall of Fame, the Arizona Daily Wildcat Hall of Fame and the Tucson High School
Hall of Fame.

He co-authored a biography on Arizona Congressman Morris K. Udall with friend
and fellow journalism professor, James W. Johnson. They spent hundreds of
hours doing research and conducted more than 100 interviews for the book, Mo:
The Life and Times of Morris K. Udall, which was published in 2001.

Married in 1954 after meeting at the UA, Don and Helen had three children,
Theresa Fortney (Robert), Mike Carson (Leah) and Susan Cormier (Craig); five
grandchildren, Jennifer Rucker, Brian Rucker, Laura Rucker, Christina Hope and
Nathan Carson; and two great-grandchildren.
MASS OF THE RESURRECTION

Donald W. Carson

St. Odilia Catholic Community
Tucson, Arizona
February 23, 2018 – 11:00 am

CELEBRANT: Fr. Miguel Mariano

We thank you for your presence here today for the Funeral Mass of Donald Carson. Please stand if it is comfortable for you at the portions of the Mass marked with an *.

*ENTRANCE SONG: Here I Am, Lord
Journeysongs # 832
Music: Mary Anne Ruane & Diane Simons

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st READING: Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9
Read by Diane Johnson

PSALM 27: Sung Response: The Lord is my light, the Lord is my light, the Lord is my light and my salvation.
Journeysongs # 29

2nd READING: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Read by Frank Sotomayor

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Revelation 14: 13
Sung Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!
Sung before and after the Gospel

*GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 1-12a

HOMILY
*UNIVERSAL PRAYER:
  Spoken response: *Risen Lord, hear our prayer.*

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS:
Susan & Craig Cormier and Mike & Leah Carson
will present the gifts we offer.

OFFERTORY SONG: *Love One Another*
    *Journeysongs # 752*

*HOLY: *Spirit & Song # 17

(please kneel)
MYSTERY OF FAITH: *Spirit & Song # 20*

GREAT AMEN: *Spirit & Song # 21

(please stand)
*LORD’S PRAYER: *Spoken

*LAMB OF GOD: *Spirit & Song # 22

(please kneel; if you do not wish to receive Communion, please be seated)

COMMUNION: *On Eagle’s Wings*
    *Journeysongs # 704*

EULOGIES: Richard Gilman, Jim Johnson, Roger Carpenter &
Mike Carson

**THE CLOSING RITE**

*SONG OF FAREWELL: *Song of Farewell
    *Journeysongs # 580*

*RECESSIONAL SONG: *Let There Be Peace on Earth
    *Journeysongs # 739*
In the Words of Don's Students

Nancy Cleeland, 1976 grad: "I wouldn't have been a journalist without Don Carson. He believed in me and encouraged me as a U of A student when I thought I didn't have what it takes.... I know I was just one of thousands of aspiring journalists who were toughened up and supported at the same time by Don. His legacy is a generation of inspired reporting."

Joe Garcia, 1985 grad: "I learned many lessons from journalism teachers over the years.... Each professor offered something unique. From Don Carson, it was about integrity - a quiet individual integrity that lives inside oneself, forever cloaked in truth yet often invisible to the naked eye. A tip of the hat to Don, among the classiest-guys I've ever known."

Christopher Dann, 1988 grad: "Professor Carson was such an influence. He always pushed me to be better.... He was a special man and a teacher without peer. My life would be markedly different without him."

John D'Anna, 1983 grad: "If not for Don Carson, I might not have had a journalism career."

Ernest Sotomayor, 1977 grad: "He was journalism's treasure."

Brian Ballou, 1992 grad: "My favorite professor ever...."

Pam Scott, 1988 grad: "One of the greatest men I have ever known."

Michele Stewart, 1997 grad: "The world is less kind without Professor Don Carson."

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The Celebration of Don's life will begin at 1 pm at
Hacienda del Sol, 5501 N. Hacienda de Sol Road,
Tucson, AZ 85718