

Don Dunphy

Don Dunphy left this world to enter another more peaceful plane May 21, 2008, at the Mat-Su Regional Hospital in Wasilla surrounded by his life partner and family.

Don was born Jan 26, 1948, in Spirit Lake, Idaho. Don came to Alaska in the 1950s with his father, mother and siblings. He graduated from Lathrop High School in 1968.

Except for four years in Missouri, Don was a longtime resident of North Pole. He worked in civil service at Fort Wainwright for 20 years until retiring in 1998. After which he owned and operated Thundering Santa's Express taxi service from 1998 to 2001. Don enjoyed meeting new people, and driving a cab was a grand way to do so.

He also worked for the Fairbanks, Regency Hotel, driving their stretch limousine. Don traveled more often than he wanted to, but did enjoy the freedom of the road and the thrill of his other passion; drag racing. Don participated in many races in Fairbanks and Palmer.

Don was a renaissance man, a man of depth. He was also a poet and author of beautiful prose, a romantic.

Don leaves his soul mate and life partner, Rocinda Fritz; stepchildren, Michael Nikes, Tommy Jackson and Kari and Josh Fritz; sons, John and Tom Kornwell; daughters-in-law, Tira Kornwell, and Lisa Nike; grandchildren, Julia and Jacob Kornwell and Michael Nikes III; brother Stephen Dunphy, nephew, Stephen Dunphy Jr.; and a host of friends including his online buddies; His mother, father and one brother have gone on previously.