



# Mr. Donald Wayne Kluge, Sr

MAR 1, 1931 - JUN 30, 2016



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## **Mr. Donald Wayne Kluge, Sr**

MAR 1, 1931 - JUN 30, 2016

**D**onald Wayne Kluge Sr. went home to be with his Lord and Savior Thursday, June 30th 2016, he was 85 years old.

Don passed peacefully in his sleep. He was preceded in death by his son Tim Kluge in 1983 and is survived by his loving and caring wife Nina Kathryn Kluge, his two sons Tom Kluge, Donald Kluge Jr. and his daughter Kelly Benthall.

Don was blessed with 10 grandchildren, Theresa Hainsworth, Tom Kluge Jr., Tim Kluge, James Kluge, Joseph Kluge, James Murillo, Devahn Reed, Shilo Benic-Kluge, Savannah Butler and Christian Kluge. Don was blessed further with 12 great grandchildren.

Don served his country for 23 years, in three branches of the military the United States Navy, The Marine Corps a decorated combat veteran Korean War, and finishing his service with the Air force, managing the Dental Laboratories and finally developing the Ocular and facial prosthetics departments at March AFB.

Upon retirement in 1970 he established Kluge Dental Laboratory in San Bernardino and Kluge Ocular and Facial Prosthetic Clinic, also in San Bernardino. He served the medical community as an ocularist and anaplastologist for 50 years and was a proud member of the American Society of Ocularists until his retirement in 2004.

He was a gifted and accomplished Jeweler with many family, friends and customers still wearing his creations today. He loved antiques and collectables so much that he opened Times Past Antique shop in San Bernardino, and he enjoyed the auctions and estate sales.

He was a man of Faith, when he was struck with cancer in 1998 he “made a promise to the Lord that if he survives this he would pay it back”. Upon recovery he started his Mission trips to Mexico to provide prosthetics, artificial eyes, limbs and dental prosthetics at no charge to the people that needed his help.

Don Kluge enjoyed people, he loved his patients, he loved his friends, he never met a



## Obituary

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stranger rich or poor, he loved to help people, he LOVED a good joke, he loved to laugh and mostly he loved his Family...especially his wife Kathy.

One of Don's favorite sayings was "if you want to kill time...WORK IT TO DEATH!". Don wasn't much for resting, instead he did a lot with his life and he accomplished a lot with it.

He will be deeply missed, but greatly remembered, though our hearts are heavy let us rejoice knowing that he is with our Father in Heaven. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, July 7, 2016 at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel, 1299 E. Highland Ave. San Bernardino with interment at Mt. View Cemetery of San Bernardino. Condolences may be sent to Donald's Memorial Page, please visit [www.bobbittchapel.com](http://www.bobbittchapel.com)



## Events

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### Cemetery Details

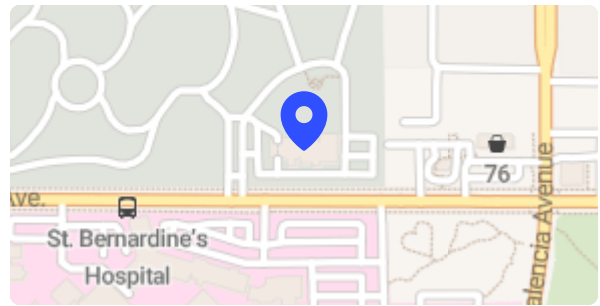


**Mt View Cemetery**

570 E. Highland Ave, San Bernardino CA 92404



**(909) 882 2943**





## Tribute Wall

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AS

**Al Spangler** posted:

I first met Don when he was assigned to the 7520th USAF Hospital just outside London. He impressed me as a very top notch Staff Sergeant who stood out among his peers. When I got to know his background having served in the Navy followed by service with the Marine Corps in Korea I could see how that experience influenced his life. Don and I shared a mutual interest in motor racing we became good friends. Along with that mutual interest I was very impressed by Don's leadership qualities. Don had been promoted to Technical Sergeant and NCOIC of the Dental Laboratory. Being a Medical Equipment Repairman I had numerous opportunities to visit his operation. Don was determined to be the best he could be and he worked hard to mentor his staff to become the best that they could be. He was an outstanding leader. While I did not make a career out of the Air Force I met up with Don again when I was living and working in Los Angeles and he was stationed at Norton AFB in San Bernardino. While my career would move me from LA to other parts of the country, Don and I stayed in touch and remained lifelong friends. When Don was your friend as many will attest; you would be hard pressed to find a more courageous, loyal and trustworthy friend. I was extremely blessed to have had Don for a friend.

January 29 at 5:00 AM

AS

**Agnes Marie Stone** posted:

Hello. My story with Don is different. Different in a good way. I had the pleasure of being hired by Don straight out of medical assistant school. I quickly came to appreciate the brilliance of this gentleman. And he was indeed, always a gentleman. I learned so much assisting him with every patient....and sometimes animals! I could not mention him without breaking out in a huge smile. We worked hard, but had many laughs as well. My favorite story was his coming into work one morning sporting a huge black eye. Sandy and I immediately asked what happened? We were told that he stopped in for a drink after work and another customer there wanted him, Kenny Rogers, to sing. As you know Don truly resembled Kenny Rogers. Well, the customer decided that 'Kenny Rogers' was full of his self importance and let poor Don have it. The black eye was the result Don paid for resembling Kenny Rogers! My admiration, respect and love for this dear friend of mine, will always bring a sad smile to my face now. My daughter remains friends with Don's son and I tell you honestly, Donald Kluge Jr., your dad was a spectacular man. My condolences to all those that loved him. I personally adored him. 🍷📺❤️

July 14 at 8:49 AM



## Tribute Wall

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RA

**Randy** posted:

I first visited Dr Kluge in 1984 after my mother read an article in the local paper about him making an eye for a young girl. I believe it is the article in the photos below from Kristie. From the first day walking into his office, i felt really comfortable and knew i was going to get and eye made that i would be proud of and that it would be right. Several years later, getting my second eye made from him, he did not like how it was coming out and scrapped it making two more until it was right. That is how it always was with him, making you comfortable and providing you with something that others could not tell the difference between real and painted.His attention to detail and they way that you felt when he was finished made it worth fighting with the insurance companies to get a referral to him.We are all so fortunate that Donald Jr has proudly taken up his father mantel and to know that the work that he and Melissa are doing is changing peoples lives and allow them to live their lives to the fullest.He will always hold a special place in my life.Randy Cox

July 13 at 12:20 PM

AC

**Antonio Carvalho** posted:

Mr. Kluge was indeed a very Noble Gentleman. His passion for his work made my life better. I always had problems with my artificial eye until I met him. The last prosthesis made in New York was not good at all. .. In my wildest dreams I could not imagine that on Arrow Avenue in San Bernardino I was going to find a better ocularist than on Lexington Avenue in N.Y. Thanks Mr. Kluge.Antonio Carvalho

July 8 at 8:58 AM

AC

**Antonio Carvalho** posted:

Mr. Donald Kluge was truly a very Noble Gentleman. His passion for his work made my life better. I was having problems with an artificial eye made in New York until I met him. In my wildest dreams I could not imagine that on Arrow Ave. in San Bernardino I could find a better ocularist than on Madison Ave. in N.Y.Truly,Antonio Carvalho

July 8 at 8:43 AM



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GG

**Gayl Grotewold** posted:

I'm Kyle Cooper's mom and want to say that Don saved my life. I was a young mother that was desperate to help her boy and Don came to the rescue. When I read in your write up that he promised to "pay it back" in 1998, all I could think was that Don paid it back his whole life!!! He help SO many people improve their lives that he surely got a golden ticket Home. I can't thank him enough for saving me and saving Kyle and making a wonderful life for my boy. You should be so proud of how many people he helped through his life. I'm so happy to see that he had a full life and I know he enjoyed every minute with his family. RIP our sweet Don.Thanks again. Gayl Grotewold

July 8 at 1:09 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Kluge family.



July 7 at 8:22 AM

MK

**Melissa Prince Kluge** lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Always in our hearts.....

July 6 at 6:59 PM



NA

**Nelson, Peggy, Randy, Karen, And Brad Allen** sent a Summer's Light Bouquet to the Kluge family.



July 6 at 5:22 PM

BK

**Bob And Salena Krone** posted:

P.S. Bob and Salena.....Salena. Wore a white and diamond pendant. For our wedding on August 1, 2015, which was made for her to match existing ear rings, by Don Kluge.

July 6 at 5:16 PM



## Tribute Wall

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BK

**Bob And Salena Krone** posted:

We. Have fond personal. And professional memories of Don Kluge For over 30 years. Bob and Sue Krone & Norris and Salena Gregory we're friends from 1974 and respected Don for his prosthetic services to those in need, often at his own expense. We so enjoyed. The 2005 celebration. of Don's Life. Norris. was a City Councilman in San Bernardino and passed in 2011. Sue passed in 2014. We, Bob and Salena, began working together, again, then we're married in 2015. We love, Kathy. And grieve with her. Bob. Krone, PhD, Colonel, USAF (Ret), President, Kepler Space. Institute Salena Gregory-Krone, GM-13 (ret), former Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, USAF Audio Visual Agency, Norton AFB

July 6 at 5:05 PM

BK

**Bob And Salena Krone** posted:

We fondly remember Don Kluge, friend for over 30 years. Bob Krone and Salena Gregory-Krone. Bob and Sue Krone and Norris and Salena Gregory respected Don's prosthetic work for decades prior to the passing of Norris Gregory, former City Councilman of San Bernardino, and Sue Krone. Then Salena and Bob were married. She wore a white gold and diamond pendant made exclusively for her to match ear rings by Don Kluge. Don spent his professional and personal life serving the needs of others, often at no expense to them. May the Good Lord Bless and Keep Don Kluge. Bob Krone, PhD, Colonel, USAF (Ret), President, Kepler Space Institute Salena Gregory-Krone, GM-13 (Ret), former Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, USAF Audio Visual Agency, Headquarters, Norton AFB

July 6 at 4:34 PM

BK

**Bob And Salena Krone** posted:

We fondly remember Don Kluge, friend for over 30 years. Bob Krone and Salena Gregory-Krone. Bob and Sue Krone and Norris and Salena Gregory respected Don's prosthetic work for decades prior to the passing of Norris Gregory, former City Councilman of San Bernardino, and Sue Krone. Then Salena and Bob were married. She wore a white gold and diamond pendant made exclusively for her to match ear rings by Don Kluge. Don spent his professional and personal life serving the needs of others, often at no expense to them. May the Good Lord Bless and Keep Don Kluge. Bob Krone, PhD, Colonel, USAF (Ret), President, Kepler Space Institute Salena Gregory-Krone, GM-13 (Ret), former Director of Equal Employment Opportunity, USAF Audio Visual Agency, Headquarters, Norton AFB

July 6 at 4:32 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Kristy Cano-Royce** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Some of you know many of you don't but I was born with a very tiny eye that was blind on my left side. I was one of the first newborns to ever be fitted with a prosthetic eye by Dr. Don Kluge. My mom had just given birth to her first baby and was in love but didn't know what to do to protect and help me from the world. He gave my parents hope and the opportunity to fit in with my peers physically. I was teased plenty growing up because my prosthetic eye looked a bit different but my parents and Dr Kluge made sure to not let those things get to me. He introduced me to so many accomplished people that had an eye like me to show me that it wouldn't stop me from doing whatever I wanted!!He worked so hard on my eyes over the years to make them as realistic as possible and my parents had great jobs to help pay for them, they are not cheap! Many people think I have a lazy eye and when they find out it's a prosthetic they always ask "how do you drive? "How did you play volleyball?" And I reply " like everyone else" lol. But seriously it takes me being more aware and looking a thousand times while driving and always knowing where I'm at on the court. Yes I run into things, could be just my clumsiness, and unfortunately cannot see 3D but I am very grateful that I can even see at all! He has truly changed my life from the moment I was born not only physically but mentally and emotionally giving me the confidence to do what everyone else could!!He passed away a couple days ago and I hope he knows what a special place he holds in my life and in my heart! I love you Dr Don Kluge and thank you for everything!!



July 5 at 10:49 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." to the Kluge family.



July 6 at 6:53 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden to the Kluge family.



July 6 at 6:48 AM



**Sincerely, Inland Eye Institute** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Kluge family.



July 6 at 4:39 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**The Sauer Family** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Kluge family.



July 5 at 10:49 AM



Kristy Cano-Royce shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 6 at 2:23 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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