



## Mr. Donald Lee Hastings

May 19, 1931 - January 14, 2021

Donald Lee Hastings, a retired business owner and resident of Rancho Mirage, CA died on January 14, 2021, at the age of 89.

Donald is survived by his wife of 53 years, Valentina Hastings; his daughters Deborah Mosher (Edward), Dian Rust, Donna Hayward, Dawn Hastings, and his stepdaughter Elizabeth Swatsek (Victor); his sister Eva Noble (Chuck), brother Mark Hastings; his 8 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents Charles and Lucille Hastings, his sister Vera Louise Thomas, brother Charles Hastings and stepdaughter Angelika Straup. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family and all who knew him.

His early career was with an agency of the Department of Defense, where he specialized in safe technology, and also trained government personnel. For his exceptional work, Don was honored with a Letter of Appreciation from Lt. Col. Aaron Bank, the Commander of the Army's first Special Forces unit.

Don moved on to a very successful career with National Cash Register, becoming one of NCR's top retail sales professionals, selling storewide point-of-sale systems to national retail chains such as Macy's and Bamberger's. He was a lifelong learner in the retail point-of-sale business with an extraordinary ability to connect people and create lifelong relationships with his clients.

In 1978, he and his wife, Valentina, founded Electronic Retail Systems, Inc. of Foster City, CA and the business flourished for several decades. Primarily specializing in supermarket and retail point-of-sale systems, Don sold and serviced multiple high-end customers, including Royal Viking Cruise Lines, Safeway and Petrini's supermarkets, and many local restaurants. He became well known in the industry for his expertise and providing the best solutions for his clients. Always ahead of his time, Don installed the first scanning system in California in an independent supermarket.

With his family and friends spread across the country and the unprecedented pandemic restrictions, we are honoring Donald with this tribute site. You are welcome to offer condolences, and to add your favorite stories and photos to this site.

He will be interred at the Palm Springs Cemetery District's Desert Memorial Park in Cathedral City, CA.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Donald Lee Hastings*

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October 05, 2023 at 09:38 PM



“ *My condolences to the entire Hastings family. I was the Dealer Relationship manger for Concord/First Data and used to call on Don at the ERS offices. I got to know Don over several years and was invited on a couple occassions to visit Don and Val at their home in Indian Wells. We played golf and enjoyed dinner at a number of fine resturants in the area. Don was a gracious host and 1st class businessman. He came from the old school where the business was build on personal relationships and the customer always came first. He was well liked and respected by his fellow contemporaries in the field of retail electronics. Don and I would exchange emails from time to time and is was when Facebook notified me of Don's birthday that I realized I had not heard from him in the past few months. I only learned of is passing this past week. Again, my sincere condolences. He will be missed by all. Larry Lincoln , Atlanta, GA*

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**Larry Lincoln** - May 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Don would have been 90 years old just yesterday, May 19, 2021. I would have loved to celebrate with him. He enjoyed gatherings of any kind where he could spend time with friends, family. Anyone who met him liked him. He knew so much about current events, history and remembered personal details about people he had met so he could converse at all levels. Nothing was boring around Don. He was very kind, supportive and encouraging to me for over 50 years. Even though he was technically my step-dad, I considered him my dad. We had lots of fun during good and challenging times. I miss him every day.

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**Liz Swatsek** - May 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ I will always remember Don how he came down to meet us for a business prospect meeting, his smiles and his mannerisms. He was professional but not pushy, not cold, very personal and confident with what he was proposing. After the initial meeting, we met a few more times at different occasions and he was always the same as how we met first time, a very nice man. He will be greatly missed.

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**rose chen** - February 01, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ I remember how Gram and Pop were so proud of him and would just light up when he was with us at family celebrations.

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**Mary Lou Rahn** - January 31, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Miss and love you Dad!

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**Dawn Hastings** - January 30, 2021 at 12:00 AM