

Rotary Club of Everett



Donald Senter (1938–2026)

Friends, family, fellow Rotarians, and, for that matter, everyone lucky enough to have known Don Senter — we're here to celebrate a man who lived life with quick wit, big heart, and the right amount of mischief.

Don was born here in Everett in 1938, the fifth of seven children in the Senter family household. He graduated from Everett High in 1956, served in the United States Army, and then headed to the University of Washington, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and on to his Doctor of Laws degree. He entered the practice of law at the Snohomish County Prosecutor's office, going on later to the highly regarded Bell & Ingram firm. Eventually, he and his friend, fellow Rotarian Buzz Miller, did what any sensible former prosecutors would do — they started their own firm, Senter & Miller. They later welcomed fellow Rotarian George Bowden to the firm, bought a beautiful historic building on Wetmore Avenue, and built a respected practice that served Everett for decades. Along the way, Don argued before the Washington State Supreme Court and later gave back as a Superior Court commissioner pro tem. A proud 50-year member of the Washington State Bar, he gave a lifetime of steady, smart service.

Don was a masterful storyteller with a quick wit and a fondness for jokes that occasionally made people blush and laugh at the same time. He was a gourmet cook whose crowning achievement may have been his legendary "high-octane" fruitcake. For years, he baked these potent masterpieces for Rotary raffles and auctions — often selling for hundreds of dollars. Club members still talk about the friendly competition and the smiles they caused. Don also discovered a late-in-life talent for whimsical painting. He created colorful, joyful pieces that he loved giving as gifts — and, in true Don fashion, donating them to a variety of Rotary fundraisers. He turned creativity into generosity, and fun into fellowship.

Don married Linda Hill in 1960 and they had two daughters, Anne and Mary. Later he married Lois Radovich, and together they blended their families with warmth and adventure — welcoming her son Ryan and daughter Julie. Don and Lois enjoyed traveling, working in the yard, boating, wintering in Palm Desert, and spoiling their grandchildren and great-granddaughter Ophelia. He was preceded in death by Lois and many dear family members, but he leaves behind a large, loving circle that will keep his stories alive.

Don was a member of the Rotary Club of Everett for decades, serving as President in 1989–1990 and as District Governor of our District 5050 in 1994–1995. He stayed active in Rotary for many years, serving on committees and showing up with paintings, fruitcake, and that dry sense of humor. He was fond of saying that “all the best jobs in Rotary had the word ‘Past’ in front of them.” But his favorite line captured his spirit best: “Rotary’s goal is nothing short of world peace.” He believed it — and he worked toward it in his own practical, generous way, whether through the club, his 35+ years on the Puget Sound Kidney Center board, or simply making people laugh and feel connected.

Don was the kind of person who made the world a little brighter, a little funnier, and a little kinder. He showed us that you can be a serious lawyer and still bake fruitcake that could power a small engine. That you can argue before the Supreme Court and still paint whimsical pictures for charity. That you can aim for world peace while making sure everyone at the table gets a good story and a laugh.

To his children — Anne, Mary, Ryan, Julie, and all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren — thank you for sharing Don with us.

Don, thank you for the jokes, the fruitcake, the paintings, the service, and the friendship. You reminded us that Rotary — and life — really is about nothing short of world peace, seasoned with some laughter.

Please stand and let us observe a moment of silence for our departed fellow Rotarian Don Senter.

Robert Bavasi
Resolutions Chair
Rotary Club of Everett
June 30, 2026