



## Donald Jack Best

January 5, 1939 - August 26, 2025

Donald Jack Best, 86, of San Antonio, Texas, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on January 5, 1939, in McAllen, Texas, Don grew up with a strong work ethic and a determination that guided him throughout his life. At just 19 years old, he founded Best Brothers Conservation Contractors, later partnering with his brother Jim. Together, they provided land clearing services for not only small ranches but also some of the largest and most storied ranches across South Texas. They earned a reputation as trusted stewards of the land. Over the years, Don developed self-taught brush management techniques that continue to this day through his son and grandsons. Where others saw untamed South Texas brush, he saw the potential for verdant green fields, opulent watering oasis, and canopies of nesting grounds for quail and other game. His company became more than a livelihood; it became a legacy.

Don's greatest joy, however, was his family. He was the devoted husband of 65 years to his beloved wife, Kathie. Together they built a home rooted in love, faith, and laughter. Don was a proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who cherished every moment with his family, whether sharing stories, offering guidance, or simply enjoying time together.

A man of many passions, Don was devoted to helping kids of all backgrounds.

Through employment opportunities, 4-H, rodeo, and church, he was a mentor and a role model. He believed deeply in hard work and integrity, values he instilled in his family and the many young people who were fortunate to know him.

Don loved competition, whether raising horses, showing livestock, or restoring hot rods. He enjoyed raising and competing with racehorses and cutting horses and supported his children and grandchildren as they raised and showed steers and heifers both locally and at the Texas Majors. He was always willing to lend a hand to others in the arena, leaving behind a legacy of generosity and sportsmanship.

Cars were another lifelong passion. Don loved hot rods and fine cars, a hobby that allowed him to put his mechanical skills to the test alongside his brother Jim. As a member of car clubs in both the Rio Grande Valley and the Texas Hill Country, he traveled across the country attending shows, making friends everywhere he went.

Faith was central to Don's life. He and Kathie were devoted members of their church, opening their home for Bible studies, supporting church activities, and often driving kids to church camp each summer. His faith guided him, his marriage anchored him, and his family was always his greatest treasure. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill Best and Leila Perrigo; his brothers, Billy Wayne Sutton and Jim Best; his sisters, Rita Fitzgerald and Sandra Best; and many dear friends and extended family.

He is survived by the love of his life, Kathie, of 65 years; his sons, Clint Best of McAllen, Billy Best and wife MaryBo, of Vattmann, Kevin Best and wife Sheri, of San Antonio; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and brother Tommy Joe Best. His greatest joy was his family, who will carry forward his love, wisdom, and legacy.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, September 4, at 11:00 a.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church, 16801 Huebner Road, San Antonio, Texas 78258, with a reception immediately following in the Concordia Family Life Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made in Don's honor to Magdalena House. This organization provides shelter to mothers and children fleeing dangerous and abusive lives. Your gift helps provide safe housing, basic needs, counseling, education, and a loving community that transforms families for generations. Contributions may be mailed to P.O. Box 692041, San Antonio, TX 78269, or made online at <https://maghouse.org/give>.

The family is deeply grateful for the outpouring of prayers, love, and support during this time.

# Tribute Wall

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“ Tommy & Janie Hanka purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Jack Best.



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**Tommy & Janie Hanka** - September 03, 2025 at 06:11 PM

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“ A dear friend, ready to answer a question when needed, kind, considerate and a friend to all. We shall always cherish the memories of him. Our love to Kathie and family. Fred and Naomi.

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**Frederick Wood** - September 03, 2025 at 05:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Jack Best.



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September 03, 2025 at 11:00 AM