



Donald Alward Mendrick

June 10, 1937 - October 4, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Donald Alward Mendrick (88) announces his peaceful passing on October 4, 2025, at home in Tallahassee, Florida, after a short struggle with congestive heart failure. Don lived a wonderful, long, happy, and adventurous life surrounded by family and dear friends whom he loved so deeply. One of the most cherished things about Don was his vibrant personality; he was always quick with a joke, and he truly enjoyed making people laugh and smile. Don's other loves included his devoted wife of 68 years, Frances Sylvester Mendrick, as well as sports cars (preferably Corvettes), destroying opponents on the tennis court, and boating...and not in that precise order. Some of our best memories of "Captain Don" were formed during scuba diving trips to the Bahamas, hunting big lobsters in the Florida Keys, enjoying margaritas on the rocks along with a platter of fresh oysters, or cheering on his beloved FSU Seminoles.

Don was born in Dover, New Jersey on June 10, 1937, to Walter Jerisal Mendrick and Catherine Batson Mendrick. He grew up in New Jersey on a farm alongside two brothers, Walter Mendrick and Richard Mendrick (both now deceased) and a sister, Nancy Anderson (Ft. Myers, FL), all of whom he adored and with whom he shared a lifetime of laughter. Don served as the President of his senior class at Hackettstown NJ High School and he captured the heart of a sweet Georgia peach, Frances, whom he married in 1957. A self-taught entrepreneur, he was the proud owner of a Western Auto Store at

the age of 20 and an even prouder father of three sons, Donald Andrew (of Tallahassee, FL), Christopher Michael (of Canon City, CO), and Todd Joseph (of Aurora, CO). He coached his boys in Little League baseball, served as their Boy Scout Troop Leader, and taught his boys to water ski, snow ski, and of course play tennis. In 1969, Don moved his family down to Ft. Myers, Florida, where he bought another Western Auto on Ft. Myers Beach, became the father to his little girl and scuba diving partner, Carrie Mendrick Roane (of Tallahassee, FL), and also became an accomplished Captain (which didn't manage to prevent him from occasionally running aground).

In Ft. Myers, Don was a member of the Church of the Resurrection, where he gave Carrie away in marriage to his cherished son-in-law, Jaken Roane. It was also in Ft. Myers where he became the father-in-law to Carolyn Mendrick and met his best friends and fellow adventurers of over 50 years, Steve, Frank, and Bernie. Don treasured becoming a grandfather to Dakota Yetzer a/k/a his littlest lobster (Whitefish, MO) and, just a few weeks before his death, Don met his great grand-son, Waker Miles Yetzer, whom he entertained with his infamous Donald Duck impression.

Don moved permanently to Tallahassee, FL in 2010 to serve in the unpaid positions of taxi-driver and tennis coach to his grandsons and buddies, Gabriel and Sebastian Roane (Tallahassee, FL). He became a member of John Paul II Catholic Church in Tallahassee, which is where his Funeral Mass and Celebration of Don's life will be held at 11am on Saturday, October 11, 2025. He will subsequently be interred on Sunday at 2pm at Roselawn Cemetery in Tallahassee, FL. His family would greatly appreciate donations be made to your favorite charity in lieu of flowers.

Rocky Bevis and Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) are assisting the Mendrick family with their arrangements

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

OCT 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint John Paul II Catholic Church
3720 Capital Circle SE
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Reception

OCT 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Saint John Paul II Catholic Church
3720 Capital Circle SE
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Tribute Wall

JM

“ My brother in law was a caring, loving man. Always concern if I needed his help.I will missed you Don Thank you for being there for me. Judy Mendrick

judy Mendrick - October 15, 2025 at 10:49 AM

SG

“ Sunny G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Alward Mendrick.

Sunny G. - October 10, 2025 at 11:21 PM

JT

“ James T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Alward Mendrick.

James T. - October 10, 2025 at 03:56 PM

WS

“ Will & Suzy Smathers purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald Alward Mendrick.



Will & Suzy Smathers - October 10, 2025 at 01:45 PM

NB

“ *Nova & Bruce purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Alward Mendrick.*



Nova & Bruce - October 10, 2025 at 01:42 PM

FS

“ *To my sister Frances and her family, Nancy and I are with you all in spirit during this difficult time. Don was like a father to me and guided me through key times in my life and I will be forever grateful. Fond memories of the Western Auto stores, water skiing on Sundays in Lake Hopatcong, times on the boat in Ft Myers and all the holidays spent in his home will forever be engrained in my memory. We will all miss his vibrant personality; his quick wit, his devotion to family and friends, funny jokes which were all hallmarks of the wonderful person and will surely be missed. He truly had a gift for making everyone feel happy and present. I will always remember him as my second father. Rest in Peace Don you were truly one of a kind and thank you for taking care of my big sister for all those years. I will miss him dearly.*

Frederick S Sylvester - October 10, 2025 at 10:25 AM



“ *I'll never forget all the times on the boat and Uncle Don taking us out to Sanibel Island for the day. Those were such special days and not appreciated nearly enough at the time - like many things in life.*

Michael Mendrick - October 09, 2025 at 07:52 AM

AM

“ I am a cousin of Don. My name is Anna Euphrosina Mendrick. I remember him taking me to Dorney Park, and amusement park in Allentown PA, when I was 4 years old. He had a white Thunderbird car. My father and I went to Western Auto on Saturdays. I got a green bike there. Don, Bob and Richard Kresge came here when he was home for a class reunion. We had a nice talk. He said Uncle Walt cried when my father died. May God hold him in the palm of his hand along with his relatives and friends.

Anna Mendrick - October 09, 2025 at 07:16 AM

MR

“ Missy, Tony and Reese Roque purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Alward Mendrick.



Missy, Tony and Reese Roque - October 08, 2025 at 06:14 PM