



## Donivan William Henry

December 18, 1937 - January 18, 2022

Donivan William Henry, age 84, passed away Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 at his residence. He was born December 18, 1937 in Xenia, Ohio to Donivan and Bonnie (Matthews) Henry.

Donivan had a full life. He had a career in the army retiring after 20 plus years as a staff Sargent. He completed 2 tours in the Vietnam war and was awarded the bronze star. Following his second tour, he was stationed in Heidelberg Germany, in charge of the train and staff used by the General for transportation. He was then transferred to Ft. Rucker Alabama, where he served as staff Sargent to a platoon and trained recruits in fixed wing aircraft maintenance, following which he retired from service. While in the service he got his bachelors from Troy State University in criminology. Upon his retirement from the Army he and his family moved to Tallahassee, Florida. He took on a career in public safety in the city of Quincy in Gadsden County. At the time, it was a combined department, so he served as both a police officer and fire fighter.

Years later when the departments separated, he stayed with the fire side and became the fire inspector for the department and ran the police and fire explorer programs. Later he went back to police work and then retired from Quincy. Donivan was also a part time instructor at the Pat Thomas law enforcement academy. He had multiple certifications in gun-smithing, and part

time small jewelry repair at a pawnshop in Quincy. He was also at one time a private investigator. He continued to teach at the police academy until age 78. He continued to ride motorcycles and fly as he had his pilot license as well until age 83. He enjoyed doing cowboy action shooting, flying and riding motorcycles, he was a Mason and a member of the Oddfellows.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father, his wife Diane (Bass) Henry, brothers Buddy Henry, Dale Henry, Wallace Henry, Patrick Henry and one son Robbie Henry. He is survived by one sister Dawn Eifler and one brother Michael Henry. His two daughters, Barbara Whiddon, and Mary Henry, one son, Thomas Henry. Four grand children, Donivan Henry, Darcy Henry, Danielle Henry, and Bowden Henry. And 8 great grandchildren, as well as two sisters-in-laws, Joy Henry and Tammy Henry and one son-in-law, John Whiddon.

The family will receive friends, Wednesday, January 26, 2022 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM at Bevis Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 AM, Thursday, January 27, 2022 at Tallahassee National Cemetery, Tallahassee, Florida where military honors will be rendered.

Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Henry family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Previous Events

## The Family Will Receive Friends

JAN 26. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Graveside Service

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tallahassee National Cemetery  
5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Tribute Wall



“ It has now been over 4 years since my friend Donivan passed and I still miss him.

*Max Kohnke  
aka Red Max*



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**Max Kohnke** - February 28 at 03:56 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Rutledge Fuller** - February 01, 2022 at 12:15 PM

DD

“ Uncle Bill was a special man. I didn't get to see him often but he always ended his visit or call with love you. He will be missed. Love u Uncle Bill. Donna

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**Donna Henry Dowling** - January 27, 2022 at 06:22 AM

DP

“ Donivan was one of a kind. He was my lead firearms instructor when I went through the academy. He commanded respect, but also was a super funny guy. He cared about his students and teaching. When I went to firearms instructor school, he was the first person I thought about. I can still hear him calling the line in my head. Rest easy my friend, we have the watch.

David Pienta - January 26, 2022 at 04:02 PM

JA

“ Jessica, Shawn and Lauren Arteaga purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Donivan William Henry.



Jessica, Shawn and Lauren Arteaga - January 26, 2022 at 03:32 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Donivan William Henry.



January 25, 2022 at 06:54 PM

LW

“ *Donivan Henry was a "character" due to his many travels & varied experiences. One knew he was very intelligent by the way he understood & dealt with human nature. He even persuaded me to join the Odd Fellows. Despite the fact I do not smoke cigars, have tattoos or ride motorcycles; I had the privilege of working with him as an assistant firearms instructor and training basic recruits at Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. This photo is great because it shows two "characters" whose comedic banter made a long day of training basic recruits enjoyable. Sorry to hear of his passing. I regret that I cannot attend his funeral but I will have a drink of premium Texas vodka in his honor. Louis Wichers See golf cart photo by Ken*



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**Louis Wichers** - January 25, 2022 at 04:40 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Donivan William Henry.*



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January 24, 2022 at 11:30 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Donivan William Henry.*



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January 24, 2022 at 08:39 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Whiddon lit a candle in memory of Donovan William Henry*



Barbara Whiddon - January 24, 2022 at 12:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donovan William Henry.*



January 23, 2022 at 02:28 PM

CW

“ *When I was 16 Bill asked me to drive him to Quincy to get suspenders or something for his and Dianne's wedding. Havana Hwy was very narrow at that time. He had a few drinks and swore I tried to kill him lol. Bill you were a wonderful, kind man and will be missed so much. Although I didn't see you often I always loved you. Fly high with your love Dianne.*

Cheryl Walsh Woodall - January 22, 2022 at 10:45 PM

SS

“ *I'm going to miss you my sweet friend!*



Starla Shontz - January 22, 2022 at 05:22 PM

KE

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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Ken - January 22, 2022 at 05:04 PM

KE

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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Ken - January 22, 2022 at 05:01 PM

DC

“ *Uncle Bill as we knew and loved him will be missed. Our father Wallace, his older brother was so proud of him and all he accomplished. From my sister Donna, my brother Wallace Jr and myself Dianna we will miss him and his visits to Ohio. When our dad passed it was Uncle Bill who was here as quick as he could get to us which we will never forget. Our prayers and love.*



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**Dianna Cordle** - January 22, 2022 at 02:19 PM

DC

*Uncle Bill the family donated today in your name to the Wounded Warrior Project we are so proud of you and your service. From Donna, Wallace Jr, Dianna, Jeannie and our father Wallace Henry. Love and prayers*

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**Dianna Cordle** - January 25, 2022 at 02:45 PM

RB

“ *Very sad to lose my airport friend and fellow pilot. Donovan was a consummate gentleman and his intelligence and insight always impressed. He had a wonderful sense of humor about most everything.*

*Lately we spoke of our mutual service in Vietnam and all things military frequently. If you didn't know it you would think you were talking to a retired colonel, not a sergeant... He didn't always want to talk much of it but his military career was too interesting for me to leave it alone. Such was the man's honesty and insightfulness that he would talk about it.*

*One of my many memories was of him watching the airplane he had spent so much time being test flown by another pilot ( Also passed) Larry Miller. Donovan had spent almost 2 years on the project which he bought from the widow of a friend and promised her to get it flying. I gave him constant grief because he just didn't fit in the plane but admired him for the reasons he got it in the first place, to honor his friend.*

*As what was supposed to be fast taxiing turned into a horrid takeoff with the rudder of the plane contacting the pavement and terrible oscillations ensued.... I looked at him and it was one of the few times I saw a perplexed look on his face... all that time and money and a friend in the plane... Fortunately Larry rose to the occasion and came around and did a perfect landing. All was well*

*Also remembered as an avid motorcyclist and no matter how cold it was he would ride to the airport and look like a big bear on his bike.... all bundled up but cold didn't seem to bother him he kind of relished that weather.*

*I had no idea that Donovan had any serious health issues he was never one to complain or bring it up at all. Probably because I gave him grief over his cigar smoking and he didn't want to hear my standard lecture about smoking... He enjoyed his cigars for sure and as he always said he was over the hump anyway and wanted to enjoy life's small pleasures.*

*In closing he will be sadly missed by all of us at the Quincy airport where he flew, maintained a hangar and airplane and was the best company anyone could be. What more could you say than that?*

*A friend,  
Robert Buchholz*

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**Robert Buchholz** - January 22, 2022 at 08:01 AM

RS

“*Donivan, You have run your final race and I will always remember how you trounced me on the 5k foot race in Quincy some 30 years ago, which you never let me forget. Your kindness, service to our country, dedication to your family, and generosity toward a lot of diverse people will be sorely missed. RIP! Dr. Bob*



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**Robert Schilling** - January 21, 2022 at 06:09 PM

"F

“*"Red Max" and the entire Kohnke family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donivan William Henry.*



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**"Red Max" and the entire Kohnke family** - January 21, 2022 at 03:06 PM



“*Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Donivan William Henry.*



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January 21, 2022 at 11:03 AM

NT

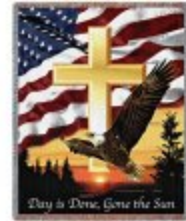
“ NF/SG Telehealth Team purchased the With Distinction for the family of Donovan William Henry.



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**NF/SG Telehealth Team** - January 21, 2022 at 11:00 AM

DK

“ Donovan, Nicki, Kenslie, DJ & Karson purchased the Memorial Honor Blanket for the family of Donovan William Henry.



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**Donivan, Nicki, Kenslie, DJ & Karson** - January 21, 2022 at 10:17 AM

MR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mike Rodes** - January 21, 2022 at 08:10 AM

MR

*A great man and mentor. He will truly be missed*

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**Mike Rodes** - January 21, 2022 at 08:11 AM

EE

*RIP my brother, a great mentor for many State and local law enforcement officers that he help train at the Florida Public Safety Institute/Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy.*

*E E Eunice*

**E E Eunice** - January 22, 2022 at 11:14 AM

RF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Rutledge Fuller** - January 21, 2022 at 07:31 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Al Simpler** - January 20, 2022 at 09:49 PM

AS

*Good bye my Friend!*

**Al Simpler** - January 20, 2022 at 09:50 PM

SP

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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Sharon Piepmeier - January 20, 2022 at 09:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donivan William Henry.



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January 20, 2022 at 07:27 PM