



## Ronald Frederick Henthorn

February 24, 1939 - February 1, 2023

On Wednesday, February 1st, 2023, Sergeant Major Ronald F. Henthorn, US Army, Retired, of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away after a long battle with cancer, surrounded by family. Ronald was born in New Haven, Connecticut and attended Warren Harding High School in Bridgeport. After attending the University of Bridgeport for one year, he enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 18. During his 25 year career in the military, he served in Vietnam, earned a bachelor's degree from Troy University, attended Foreign Language School in California, was assigned to several different overseas postings, and was dedicated to serving his country. Included among the many service medals, ribbons, and commendations that he earned were the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, and the Joint Service Commendation medal.

In 1965, Ron met Melba, the love of his life, on a blind date in Huntsville, Alabama. Six months later, they married on October 1st, 1965, and spent the next 57 years together as best friends and adoring partners. His love for Melba ran very deep. Together they had two daughters, Stephanie and Christina, and a granddaughter Samantha. Ron was excited that he was soon going to be Pop-Pop to great granddaughter Brynlee Nicole. A dedicated family man who cherished his loved ones, he was generous with his love and time. Ron's military service took the family overseas to both Bulgaria and Korea, as well as multiple state side postings. After retiring from the military

and choosing Tallahassee as their home, Ron went to work as the associate registrar at Florida State University. During his 20 years with Florida State, he earned a master's degree in Public Administration.

Ron was an avid reader, enjoyed his daily crossword puzzles, and building wooden model ships. Adult coloring became a passion for him later in life, and his completed pictures look like professional prints. He loved to fish and spent a great deal of time at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, catching and releasing. Watching and observing the wildlife at St. Marks was also a favorite pastime. Ron loved to tell entertaining stories that may or may not have been true, but they were always an experience. Ron's other true love was his tri-pod Chocolate Lab Bo. They would take daily walks through the neighborhood and had matching limps. Bo was a constant and loyal companion for Ron in retirement.

After serving in the military, traveling was in his blood. He and Melba loved to cruise and take road trips. Cedar Key, the north Georgia mountains, and St. Pete Beach were favored locations. The annual summer family trip to St. Pete Beach became a much anticipated event every year. The friends that were met there from other states quickly became family. After 38 years and counting, our beach family deeply loved and respected Ron.

In June of 2022, Ron was able to achieve a desired bucket list item and took the family back to Alaska. He visited Denali National Park, took a glass-top train ride through breathtaking Alaskan scenery, and finished it off with a cruise along the Inside Passage.

He is deeply loved and will be missed in many ways, great and small.

Ron was preceded in death by his father John Edward Henthorn and mother Elva Louise Henthorn.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife Melba, daughters Stephanie White (Holly) and Christina Henthorn, granddaughter Samantha Murray (Ryan), brothers Jack and Larry, and sister Patricia.

A service honoring the life of Ronald will be held at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023, at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Friends of St. Marks Wildlife Refuge [www.stmarksrefuge.org](http://www.stmarksrefuge.org).

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home ([www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Tallahassee National Cemetery  
5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Tribute Wall

AY

“ Uncle Ron was a kind, gentle and constant presence at my Aunt Melba's side. I have good memories of him when I was a child, and wish I could have known him better in my adult years. He was a man, husband, father and veteran to be honored and respected. - Amanda Young, niece.

Amanda Young - February 08, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald Frederick Henthorn.



February 08, 2023 at 01:15 AM

YF

“ Your FPSI Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ronald Frederick Henthorn.



Your FPSI Family - February 07, 2023 at 10:16 AM

SL

“ Sl sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald Frederick Henthorn



sl - February 06, 2023 at 03:46 PM

EL

“ I have known Ron since I was three years old and he was trying to impress my sister. He was successful, and she became his partner for life. Ron made me feel safe as a child and welcome as an adult. He was always entertaining and warm to be around.

Elisa - February 06, 2023 at 08:18 AM

BE

“ Ron was a truly wonderful person; kind and compassionate and a wonderful story teller. He will always be a part of our SPB family and will still be with us there, fishing in the Gulf and sitting at the “special” table. ❤️ Love, Chris, Melissa, and Eileen Benson.

Benson - February 05, 2023 at 09:29 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Ronald Frederick Henthorn.



February 04, 2023 at 08:44 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald Frederick Henthorn.



February 04, 2023 at 06:12 PM

FF

“ *From Your Gabor Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald Frederick Henthorn.*



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**From Your Gabor Family** - February 04, 2023 at 01:50 PM