



Donald Daugherty Brennan

June 11, 1928 - August 20, 2015

Donald Daugherty Brennan, age 87, passed away quietly on August 20, 2015 at his home in North Perry, Ohio with his loving wife Carol by his side. He was the son of Francis Lee Robbins and Carrie Mae Daugherty, born on June 11, 1928 in Benwood, WV. His parents divorced in 1929. In 1933, Carrie Mae married Edward R. Brennan who adopted Donald. He was predeceased by his Grandparents, Charles and Emma Daugherty, his parents, his Stepfather, his half-brother Richard D. Brennan, and his first wife of 45 years, Patricia Jeanne Beller Brennan, whom he met on a blind date in 1951 in Cleveland, OH. Don had previous residences in Stafford, VA, Petaluma, CA; Falls Church, VA; Saipan, CNMI; Alexandria, VA; Cherry Point, NC; Camp Lejeune, NC; and Benwood, WV.

He is survived by his second wife Carol (Luck) Brennan of North Perry, OH whom he married in 2004; sons Dennis and his wife Trudy of Wake Forest, NC; Douglas of Saipan, CNMI; David and his wife Susan of Castle Pines, CO; daughter Debra of Annandale, VA; grandchildren Jamie Brennan and her husband Donnie Staggs, Jr., and Heather Brist all of Quincy, MA; Dexter Brennan and his wife Hitomi, Daryl and Donovan Brennan all of Saipan; Caroline Johnston and her husband Adam of Littleton, CO, and Hannah Brennan of Aurora, CO. He has numerous nieces and nephews, as well numerous very loving stepchildren and step grandchildren from Carol's family. Caroline and Adam presented Don with his first great grandchild, Michael

David Johnston in March 2013 and presented him with his second great grandson, William Thomas Johnston in June 2015.

Growing up during the depression, Don learned to be frugal and fend for himself. He lived his early life with his Mother and Grandparents in Benwood, WV. He learned to hunt and fish as a means of providing food for the table, and both turned into lifelong passions. He also learned to garden, which also stayed with him as he loved to grow and propagate Azalea's.

At Euclid (OH) Senior High school (class of '46) Don took up boxing. He was very good. He was a Golden Gloves runner up in 1946 and continued with boxing when he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1947. He went "sea-going" on the USS Huntington as part of the Marine Guard detachment in 1948 and made exotic port calls in Italy, Morocco, and Spain. He served in Korea towards the end of the conflict; was stationed on the Pacific island of Saipan in the late 50's – interesting note, while on Saipan both Don and Pat were in the CIA; he served in Vietnam in '65-66 where he received a field promotion to Warrant Officer. In 1968 Don retired from the Marine Corps as a Warrant Officer I after serving as Assistant Provost Marshall at Marine Corps Base Quantico (VA). During his Marine Corps career, he was involved in military intelligence, military police, and as an instructor at the FBI Academy at Quantico.

Don had a second career with First Virginia Bancshares Corp (FVB, now BB&T), in Falls Church, VA, starting as a Manager Trainee and retiring as head of Facilities and Security in 1989. He oversaw the construction and was responsible for the two FVB headquarters high rise buildings in Seven Corners, VA. At FVB Don made many friends that he stayed in touch with quite often, many of whom were onboard his surprise 80th birthday party luncheon cruise with over 120 family, neighbors, and friends on the Potomac River boat Dandy out of Alexandria, VA in 2008. Many of these same people

were frequent guests at the “cabin in the mountains” that Don and Pat owned from 1974 - 1994. It was a 150 year old log cabin on 55 acres that they restored from top to bottom. Fun was never far away with a pond to fish in and woods to hunt in.

After retiring from FVB, Don and Pat moved to Petaluma, CA in 1990 at the request of Nan McEvoy, at the time, Chairwoman of the Board of the San Francisco Chronicle. Don oversaw the conversion of 550 acres of cattle ranch land to realize her dream of creating an olive oil ranch. Don had his hands full as he worked to clear the ponds, prepare fields for planting, coordinated testing and applications for growing olives and planted the first 1,000 olive tree seedlings that now number over 30,000 trees and produce some of the best premium extra virgin olive oil in the world, McEvoy Ranch Olive Oil.

An avid hunter and fisherman all his life, he taught the skills of nature to all his children and grandchildren. His annual trips to Canada were shared with Pat, then Carol, and his progeny guests and numerous friends. He preached and taught gun safety to all his children and grandchildren, demonstrating and coaching them all on the proper firing positions for rifles, shotguns, and pistols. Hunting with his children and trips to Quantico during deer season usually began at “0 dark 30” with thermoses full of hot chocolate, bag lunches, and a special stop at the Krispy Kreme bakery in Bailey’s Crossroads, VA for hot donuts. When his grandsons had the opportunity to come to the states they planned hunting trips that resulted in some great “racks” being collected. On the fishing front, Don thoroughly enjoyed baiting hooks for his granddaughters and then watching with a smile when they pulled in a “big one”!

Don started collecting sea-shells on Saipan, a passion his son Douglas still has, and his collection grew into one of the largest privately held sea-shell

collections in the world. He was former president of the National Capitol Shell Club and could recite the Latin name for almost any sea-shell in his extensive collection. He also loved to collect fishing rods and reels that he cleaned up, combined, and even used during his numerous fishing trips. He was able to donate over 300 fishing rods, reels, and 50 some tackle boxes to an organization in Louisburg, NC to support an annual fishing derby for youth and Wounded Warriors.

Don and Carol loved to travel and seemed to always have a trip planned somewhere. Whether it was another fishing trip to Halley's Camp in Canada, or going out for perch and walleye on Lake Erie, or to one of the many timeshares Carol owned, or to go gamble in Las Vegas or Atlantic City, or just play bingo, they didn't sit still. They loved being together with friends and family to watch Redskins games, or being outdoors with the many planting projects they started around their homes.

Don was a loving and supportive husband to both Pat and Carol; a great father and life-long example of excellence to his children and step-children; a proud grandfather; and blessed to have held both of his great grandsons. He was our Friend, our Teacher, our Mentor, and will always be our Hero. His family saying "All our love, All our lives" is what we will hold in our hearts; and we'd all like to think Don's just "Gone Fishin'!"

A Celebration of Don's life will be held from 2-4 pm on Saturday August 29, 2015 at Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH. 44060.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Condolence expressions are requested to be directed to the Wounded Warriors Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org/donate in the memory of

Donald D. Brennan, WO1, USMC, retired.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **29**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Donald Daugherty Brennan.*



August 27, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ *One good memory I have is; In December 1979, when David's old high school football team and classmates were invited over to his parents house for a Christmas eve celebration, things wet south quickly. By the time Mr. and Mrs. Brennan arrived home, they discovered these boys had busted their living room couch through antics we can not discuss here. When I saw Mr. Brennan's face react to the scene of "his broken couch", I knew he was going to unleash on us some good old fashion USMC discipline. In stead, I was surprised to witness that Mrs. Brennan, in a complete separate and high tone of excitement stated, in so many wards, that she wanted to dish out the first dose of discipline to Dave's high school cronies. I noticed during this split second pause, Mr. Brennan found it amusing to see his wife get so flustered at these youthful mischievous males, that he began to snicker and roll his eyes, behind his wife's back of course. During this brief and near encounter with Jesus, David's buddies, upped and split immediately out of the house seeking to make new catastrophes at the Claxton household, next on their Christmas Eve visitation list.*

I always knew the Brennan kids had great, caring and loving parents. Mr. Brennan was a Champ in my book!

Steve - August 27, 2015 at 10:48 AM

JB

“ Grandpa was loving, caring, and loved to laugh, and he was first and honest. All qualities I hold dear to myself as well. Love you, granps!!!

Jamie Brennan - August 27, 2015 at 07:40 AM

JB

Direct and honest

Jamie Brennan - August 27, 2015 at 07:41 AM

JS

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Don when he worked for First Virginia Bank. I will think of him fondly when I use my McEvoy Ranch Olive Oil. My condolences to his family.

Joanne Wagner Staunton

Joanne Staunton - August 26, 2015 at 04:51 PM

JH

“ My heartfelt condolences to Carol and families upon the passing of Don. What a wonderful legacy of memories you have shared together to treasure forever.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Hilliard-Fetheroff

Jeannette Hilliard - August 25, 2015 at 09:00 PM



DM

“ Don was a very special and rare individual - someone that touched so many of us in so many ways. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to get to know him several decades ago and always enjoyed our conversations - specially the discussions about the sea shells.

In the course of our lifetime, we truly meet only a few people that our exceptional. Don is one of those. He will surely be missed but he will never be forgotten.

David (Alexandria, VA)

David Marcus - August 25, 2015 at 04:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Daugherty Brennan.



August 25, 2015 at 11:00 AM

TC

“ The Town of Wake Forest and the Human Relations Council. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donald Daugherty Brennan.



The Town of Wake Forest and the Human Relations Council.
- August 25, 2015 at 08:17 AM

GR

“ *My Uncle Don was always larger than life to me both figuratively and literally.*

He towered over me and had a booming voice.

The stories he told were spellbinding.

He was never shy with advice or help.

I will miss him....

Griff

griff - August 24, 2015 at 05:01 PM