



Donald Kollanda

January 24, 1938 - August 16, 2025

Donald Kollanda, a man of honor and dedication, passed away on August 16, 2025, in Ocala, Florida. Born on January 24, 1938, in New Haven, Connecticut, Donald's journey through life was marked by his unwavering love for his family, his country, and the simple joys of life.

Donald's early years were spent in the nurturing environment of West Haven, where he graduated from West Haven High School in 1954. His academic achievements were just the beginning of a life characterized by hard work and commitment. Donald's sense of duty led him to a distinguished career in the Air Force, where he served as a Maintenance Management Technician. Through 20 years of dedicated service, he rose to the rank of Tech Sergeant, receiving numerous accolades for his exceptional work.

After retiring from the Air Force, Donald's industrious spirit found a new avenue in the aviation industry. He spent a decade building Sikorsky aircraft, showcasing his technical prowess and contributing to the advancements in aeronautics. Donald's hands were skilled, and his mind sharp, attributes that served him well in both his military and civilian careers.

Predeceased by his beloved wife, Delores, 15 years earlier, Donald was a family man at heart. He is survived by his three sons, Frank Kollanda (life partner, Dawn Santiago), Richard Kollanda and Randy (Tammy) Kollanda; and

his cherished grandchildren, Richard II (Chrissy) Kollanda, John (Cory) Kollanda, Randi Kollanda, Nicole Kollanda, and Jason Kollanda. He was also blessed with 2 bonus grandchildren Summer and Autumn, who affectionately called him "Grand Dad"; His legacy further extends to six great-grandchildren, Adrianna, Nathan, Theodore, Eleanor, Parker and Tyler who will carry forward his memories. Donald's brother, Clayton Kollanda, and his wife Rena, remain to honor his memory, alongside the recollections of his predeceased siblings, Glenn Kollanda and Rita Cammisa.

Donald's best friend, Frank Millen, stands testament to the deep bonds of camaraderie that Donald formed throughout his life. Their friendship was a source of joy and support, a constant through the many seasons of life.

Beyond his professional and familial achievements, Donald was a man of diverse interests. He cherished moments spent fishing, boating, and exploring museums. Preferring the scenic routes of the country to the impersonal skies, Donald enjoyed driving around the country, absorbing the beauty of the landscapes that he so proudly served to protect. His patriotism was not just a sentiment but a way of life, and he was always ready to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens.

Described as handy, loving, and generous, Donald's character was the embodiment of the American spirit—giving and proud. His legacy is not just in the work he did or the family he raised but in the countless lives he touched with his generosity and warmth.

Donald Kollanda's life was a tapestry of service, love, and joy. A true patriot, a devoted family man, and a friend to many, his memory will be cherished and kept alive by those who were fortunate enough to know him. As we bid farewell to this remarkable man, we celebrate a life well-lived, a journey completed with honor, and a legacy of love that will endure.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG 21. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala East Chapel
2739 SE Maricamp Rd.
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-9944

Celebration of Life

AUG 21. 4:00 PM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala East Chapel
2739 SE Maricamp Rd.
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-9944

Tribute Wall

JF

“ My dad was Glenn, Don’s little brother. When I was in fourth grade, we moved from Connecticut to Oregon. Don was the one relative who consistently came to visit us throughout the years. All of us would get in the car and go see the great sites of Oregon. We had so much fun. When dad went into a nursing home, Don would still come and visit and spend the whole day with dad. After dad passed, Don would call my mom and check in on us. I love how much Don talked, how much he joked, and how much he loved. I’m so happy he was in our lives.

Jodie Kollanda Ferguson - August 21, 2025 at 03:21 PM

FK

Thanks for the beautiful sentiment about my dad. Love Frank

Frank Kollanda - August 22, 2025 at 09:06 PM

JF

“ Jodie Kollanda Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Donald Kollanda



Jodie Kollanda Ferguson - August 21, 2025 at 02:16 PM

GC

“ If only folks could know the treasured influence Uncle Don and Uncle Glenn had on my childhood... They were like much needed big brothers to me. While my mom was visiting with Grandma Alice at Thomas Street, Don and Glenn would babysit me, taking me everywhere they went with all their great friends. I wasn't even a teen but they treated me like one of the crew, exploring the unbelievably exciting Savin Rock Amusement Complex that was within walking distance on the shore of Long Island Sound in West Haven. I think they used me to attract girls too - if they were trusted to babysit a kid, they could be trusted to be respectful, and they were. Uncle Don and Uncle Glenn's influence and all the family bonds centered around life at Thomas Street will be cherished forever. Around 2007, we were all three together again at Uncle Glenn's house in Medford OR for a week long reunion of sorts. Such great memories!
Forever grateful,
Gary

Gary Cammisa - August 19, 2025 at 10:28 AM

FK

Thanks Gary. Dad liked getting phone calls from you and talking. Put a smile on his face. Love Frank

Frank Kollanda - August 22, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Kollanda.

August 19, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Kollanda.*



August 19, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to you all. Don was my father Charlie's next door neighbor for many years. Don was always a good friend to my father and my dad enjoyed spending time with Don going to the casino and having other adventures. My father will miss him greatly.*

Heidi Brandt Hostelley - August 19, 2025 at 08:33 AM



Thank you Heidi. My dad liked your father a lot and going to the casino. Your father was at the memorial yesterday and told me he was the neighbor he had. And will miss him dearly. I appreciate their friendship. Love Frank

Frank Kollanda - August 22, 2025 at 09:14 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Kollanda.*



August 18, 2025 at 09:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Kollanda.

August 18, 2025 at 09:28 PM



“ I have the same fond memories as Liz. I met Don when I was 19 and dating his son Frank, except we were sitting around the kitchen table in West Haven having cocktails and he was entertaining us with his jokes. I can't remember ever seeing him without a smile or a chuckle. I had the privilege of going on a road trip with him about 8 years ago from CT to FLA with my daughter and granddaughter. I will cherish the happy memories always.
You will be missed Don~
Patti Alter (ex daughter-in-law)

Patti Alter - August 18, 2025 at 08:42 PM



Thanks Patti for the kind words and memories.
Love Frank

Frank Kollanda - August 22, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ I met Donald when I was 15 and dating his son, Richard. I'd sit in their living room, in West Haven, while he regaled me with a constant barrage of jokes. He loved to laugh and make others laugh. He had a great sense of humor and I rarely saw him without a smile. Even, almost 50 years later, still smiling, still joking. Donald, you will be missed.
Sadly, your ex-daughter-in-law, Liz Pacilio

Elizabeth Pacilio Mongillo - August 18, 2025 at 07:42 PM

FK

*Thanks Liz for the fond memories.
Love Frank*

Frank Kollanda - August 22, 2025 at 09:16 PM

UP

“ *Umma & Poppy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Kollanda.*

Umma & Poppy - August 18, 2025 at 03:02 PM

UP

“ *Umma & Poppy purchased the [With Distinction](#) for the family of Donald Kollanda.*



Umma & Poppy - August 18, 2025 at 03:02 PM