



Mr. Donald Leroy Philp

April 16, 1949 - August 25, 2024

Donald Leroy Philp (75) of Cocoa, took his final breath at Cape Canaveral Hospital on Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 2:31 AM. He was surrounded by his “harem”, his beloved granddaughters, his eldest daughter and his soul mate and wife of 33 years, Sandy.

Born on April 16, 1949 in Dotters Corner, Pennsylvania, he was the son of Martin and Ella (Getz) Philp. He spent most of his childhood among family in the Allentown and Pocono areas of Pennsylvania before relocating to Laural, Maryland. He was a 1967 graduate of Glenelg High School. Donald was a proud Army Veteran having served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War. After serving his county, Don spent the next four decades working in the Aerospace Industry, supporting the space program, in both Washington DC and at the Kennedy Space Center. He retired in 2011 from ASRC as Director of Information and Technology.

During his younger years, Don was an avid HAM Radio Operator. He could be found every Saturday night at his local speedway, racing cars and eventually working with Racing Radio. He was an outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing, and especially loved being in the mountains and on the water. Don could fix anything, from your basic household appliance to refurbishing classic cars, he was the guy you called when you needed help. His pulled pork was legendary and he was known as “King of the Grill” at many a picnic at KARS

park. Don and Sandy enjoyed watching NASCAR, motorcycle riding, RVing, going out to eat with friends and attending their granddaughter's various activities, they were his pride and joy.

Don, or Scapulchapeck as he would often introduce himself, made a friend out of almost everyone he came across. Colleagues, many of whom became lifelong friends, not only respected his professionalism and work ethic but enjoyed his sense of humor. He was a favorite patron at many local Space Coast restaurants, where staff enjoyed joking with him. He came from an enormous family with 51 first cousins, several who he maintained a special bond with that was so much more than extended family.

Don is survived by his wife and best friend, Sandra (Gonzalez), Daughters Erin Philp Harris of Rockledge and Meredith Philp (Patrick Alves) of Dublin, PA, Granddaughters Katrina and Emily Sallustio of Rockledge, Sister and Brother-in-law Connie and Charlie Schwarz of Pea Ridge, AR, and nephew Charles "Chip" Schwarz of Ajo, AZ. Donald will also be remembered by many honorary children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who lovingly referred to him as as "PopPop" or "Papa Bear"; as well as many cousins, and countless dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Martin and Ella Philp and mother-in-law Janice Gonzalez.

A celebration of life will be held in Brevard County at a later time yet to be determined.

Memorial donations may be made to Heroes United to Heal Foundation to support Veteran's and First responders struggling with PTSD. Donations can be made online at Heroes United to Heal Foundation (HU2H) - Heroes United To Heal (square.site). Please note "In Memory of Don Philp" in the notes of the checkout page or on the memo line if paying by check. Checks can be mailed to Heroes United to Heal, 3000 Murrell Road, Number 560325, Rockledge , FL, 32956.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I worked with Don at KSC, as a co-worker for one project, followed by with him as my manager on a couple of other projects. I owe Don a debt of gratitude as he kept me employed during a time when work at KSC had dried up while many others faced a layoff. Don was fun to be around, hard working, cared for his co-workers/employees, and had a straight-forward management style that I respected and appreciated. Don will always be one of those people in my career that will I never forget. Thanks Don for all of the memories.

My condolences to Sandy and the entire family.

Dale Hirschert - September 03, 2024 at 04:56 PM

DS

“ DON was my cousin and literally grew up very close like brothers, living close by also till Uncle Martin moved to MD. I COULD write a lengthy book about all the fun, funny, crazy and good things we did and shared together in our lives..A part of my heart has been lost and I would have given my heart to him to save him. I send my deepest love to Sandy and his girls and grandchildren, Connie and her husband.

Dale Sandt - August 28, 2024 at 02:29 PM

 Julie Berry

*We love you, Sandy, and are so glad we were able to meet Donald and spend a little time with both of you through the years! I found him to be such a gentle soul who loved you to pieces! We are praying for you and your entire family as you mourn his loss!
Sending much love and hugs,
Julie, Rick, and the Stormbringer family*

Julie Berry - August 28, 2024 at 03:36 PM

DS

*Don and I shared a bedroom when my mother Sohia and my sister Carolyn lived with Martin, Ella, Connie and Don.
Did not see Don for 20 years and we met up in Okinawa. Absolutely going to miss him.*

David and Sharron Straka

David straka - August 28, 2024 at 04:37 PM



*Don, Sandy and I worked together at the Space Center.
Don was my mentor and I learned so much from him.
He could always defuse any situation with humor.
We became friends and neighbors, but he was more like an older brother to me.*

Don and I worked on MGB sports cars and many other projects and conversations.

I'll surely miss him.

Sending love to you, Sandy

Craig Swanson - September 02, 2024 at 08:10 PM