



William John Donsbach

December 26, 1943 - March 4, 2019

It is with heavy hearts that the son and daughter of William John Donsbach announce Bill's passing on March 4th, 2019. His wife of 53 years, Dale Donsbach, mourns the loss of a dear Husband but joins us in celebrating a life well lived. We are the son, Scott Donsbach married to Nancy Donsbach, and the daughter, Kimberly VanAlstine married to Rick VanAlstine, who want to share a few words on behalf of our Father, Bill. He was born on December 26th, 1943 in Baltimore, Maryland to Catherine and Hague Donsbach. Twenty years later, he was able to share his loving parents with a brother, Jeff. While Jeff grew up in Madison, New Jersey, Bill met his dream of becoming a soldier after graduating from Virginia Military Institute (class of '65). Although Dale and Bill grew up 10 miles apart in New Jersey, our devilish Dale was breaking Bill out of the dormitory of VMI for fun dates that lead to a wedding in September of 1965 before Bill's deployment to Vietnam as Captain of Infantry Regular Army. As children, we know that our Dad was a Hero. Our hero was defined by his strong work ethic, being home every night for supper, and teaching us the principles of life that lead to success both professionally and personally. It wasn't until recently that we found out that Bill was another type of hero, a Bronze Star Medalist with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Bill received the Bronze Star for heroism in connection with ground operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam. "With complete disregard for his personal safety, Captain Donsbach maneuvered to a point between his injured comrades and the hostile position and laid down a heavy volume of fire which

enabled the wounded men to be evacuated from the area."Using the words of my brother, he was a real Bad Ass! After his discharge in 1974, Bill continued to operate with the same devotion to duty but now the duty of family. He worked diligently in the world of Banking while raising us. He watched his brother, Jeff, graduate from college, start marriage to his wife, Beth, and have two beautiful daughters, Catherine and Mary. Meanwhile, we, the children of Bill Donsbach, grew up participating in Dad's many hobbies relating to history. Who can forget the Mountain Men days with Scott as the Mountain Man-to-be and Dale and Kim as the Crow squaws! But that wasn't enough. The Civil War era was just far too interesting to pass Bill by without a few reenactments. And who knew that a picture of 5 year old Bill in a cowboy costume would go full circle with him participating in Sharp Shooter events in his late sixties! He was passionate about history and could sit with anyone who was willing to listen or discuss.

And let us not forget his other passion, his beloved dogs. The wag of Casey's tail (or any furry tail) always put Bill into a full faced smile. But Bill's real pride was his grandchildren, Benjamin and Amelia Donsbach, the beautiful children of Scott and his wife, Nancy. He was overflowed with joy, as was Dale, to hear the news of Ben accepting at University of Vermont and watching Amelia to strive for a similar goal. We are saddened that Bill will not be on this earth to watch his grandchildren's successes in life but we know that he is watching down at all times. We celebrate your life, Dad, and are comforted with the thoughts of you being surrounded with Oma, Pop, your beloved dogs and probably making a little trouble with your dear friend, Wayne "Moose" Lewis. To all Friends and Family, on behalf of his loving wife Dale, we invite you to celebrate William (Bill) Donsbach's life with a Visitation on Saturday, March 16th from 1-3 pm at Goldfinch Beach Chapel on 11528 Highway 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet, SC. On the day the Bill retired, he said he would never wear a suit or tie again so to honor his proclamation please be casual, comfortable, and bright during your visit.

Goldfinch Funeral Home is in charge of the Visitation arrangements.
For your consideration, in lieu of flowers, donate to National Kidney
Foundation (<https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/polycystic>) in honor of
William J Donsbach.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR **16**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Center

11528 Hwy 17 Bypass

Murrells Inlet, SC 29588

(843) 651-3295

info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com

<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

S'

“ I just learned of Bill's passing and send my condolences to his family. Being a VMI '73 graduate, he was a Captain (Infantry officer) on the tactical staff during my cadetship. Never having the occasion of being corrected by Captain Donsbach, I only had respect for him and the role he played in the development of cadets. RIP to a fine officer.

Stuart Seaton, Jr. VMI '73 - August 08, 2019 at 12:37 AM

PW

“ My condolences to Bill's family. I've known him for nearly 40 years since our days together in the Civil War reenacting world. I'm also a fellow VMI Grad, thanks in part to a recommendation he wrote for me. I enjoyed his counsel and sharing of history. Rah Va Mil, Bill.
Paul W '94

Paul Whitmore - August 07, 2019 at 12:46 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William John Donsbach.



March 12, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William John Donsbach.*



March 12, 2019 at 06:07 AM



“ *Meadows of Memories was purchased for the family of William John Donsbach.*



March 10, 2019 at 11:28 AM



“ *Love, Kim, Rick, Scott, Nancy purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of William John Donsbach.*



Love, Kim, Rick, Scott, Nancy - March 10, 2019 at 11:20 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of William John Donsbach.*



March 10, 2019 at 11:08 AM

MH

“ I’m sorry to hear of Bill’s passing, he will be missed. My heart goes out to you Dale, cherish the memories, and let them give you strength through the grief.

Dialysis and the medical complications that come with it take up so much of our lives. If we’re not recovering from the effects of treatment, we have endless appointments, and barely enough time to enjoy with friends. We’re all part of an extended family, and I feel blessed to be one of Bill’s. I’ll always remember the day we went to the range, and had dinner at Texas Roadhouse.

God speed Bill...

Mark Hanson - March 10, 2019 at 09:39 AM

FH

“ *from Rob Howard and Barbara-Jo Howard purchased the Love's Journey for the family of William John Donsbach.*



from Rob Howard and Barbara-Jo Howard - March 08, 2019 at 05:32 PM

CH

“ *I was a nurse at Murrells Inlet Dialysis for almost 14 years...and there is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Donsbach and Moose are causing trouble in heaven! He was such a kind man, I don't think I ever saw him upset! And yes...when all us staff showed him pictures of our fur babies he lit up from ear to ear! I know he will be greatly missed! His picture that you have posted is how I will always remember him...that big smile!!*

Carrie Harris - March 08, 2019 at 09:58 AM

KV

Carrie, Thank you so much for your kind comments.

Kim VanAlstine - March 08, 2019 at 01:27 PM

JG

So very sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Thinking of you all with love, Dick, Joanne, Ashley and Tom Garwood

Joanne Garwood - March 08, 2019 at 01:51 PM

SD

Carrie, thank you for the kinds words about my father. Dad always raved about the nurses at the center. He thought the world of you guys.

Scott Donsbach - March 08, 2019 at 02:47 PM

KZ

“ *I remember Bill as a fellow NJ Yankee, there were too few of us, seated in the stands glancing with allegiance across the backsides of our standing fellow Keydets enthusiastically shouting out the stanzas of Dixie. Loyalty amongst the loyal. Go in peace Brother Rat.*

Karl Zeller - March 07, 2019 at 03:21 PM

KV

Karl, Thank you for sharing your memory!

Kim VanAlstine - March 08, 2019 at 01:27 PM

SD

Karl, I second what my sister said. Dad was always proud of his time at VMI. It was a huge part of the man he became. I recently visited Lexington and saw VMI and understood why.

Scott Donsbach - March 08, 2019 at 02:51 PM

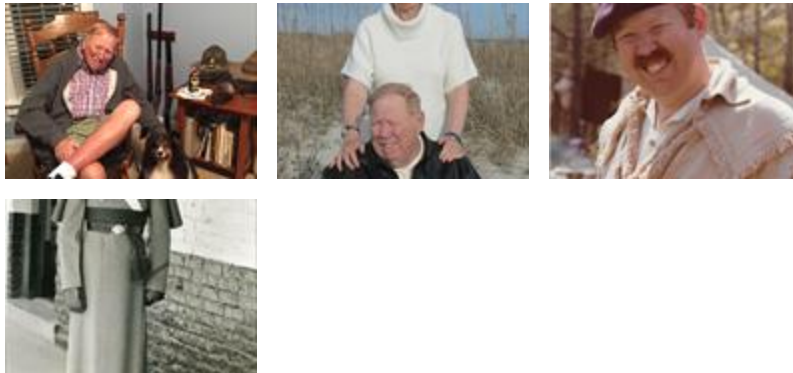
KZ

I remember you Dad being a gun-ho VMI Ranger. I was also a member of the 'VMI Rangers' club with your Dad. I still have my VMI Range patch. He was in the Army ROTC and I was in the Air Force ROTC but I still enjoyed getting dirt on my clothes playing those muddy Army games. :)

Karl Zeller - March 09, 2019 at 06:01 PM

KV

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Kim VanAlstine - March 07, 2019 at 01:56 PM

LD

“ Our sincerest condolences. Bill was an honorable man.

Larry and Sue Deblasiis - March 07, 2019 at 01:13 PM

KV

Larry and Sue, thank you for your comment.

Kim VanAlstine - March 08, 2019 at 01:28 PM

SD

Honorable is definitely a good way to describe our father. Those are qualities that he distilled in us and I have pushed to my kids. Thank you for the kind words.

Scott Donsbach - March 08, 2019 at 02:56 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William John Donsbach.* ”



March 07, 2019 at 11:20 AM