



## Donald T MacKinnon

August 21, 1946 - December 17, 2014

Donald MacKinnon

August 21, 1946 – Dec. 17, 2014

Donald was born in Cambridge, Mass. After graduating from Braintree High School, he enlisted in the Army in 1966, serviced as a helicopter crew chief in Viet Nam, and was honorably discharged in 1969 with two Bronze Service Stars awarded.

Completing his military obligations, Donald was employed by Digital Equipment Corp. from 1970 to 2002. Rising from a wireman trainee to a Principle Hardware Engineer, his contributions help lay the ground work for server technology used today.

His numerous activities included sail boating, saltwater fly fishing, scuba diving, and underwater photography. With his retiring to Florida, he started a candle making business: Candles by Donald.

Donald leaved behind his wife of 44 years, Sue; son Gabe of Sarasota; father to nephew Phillip Wolf of Richmond, VA, and niece Danielle Parker of Lewiston, ME. Also, he leaves his brother, Stephen MacKinnon of Valdosta, GA; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Donald's name to the Suncoast  
Basset Rescue: 4811 Northwest 17th Place, Gainesville, FL 32605 (352) 371-  
8082

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald T MacKinnon*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Donald T MacKinnon*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *He was like a father to me in many ways. Both aunt Sue and Uncle opened their hearts and accepted me as part of their family. I remember sitting and listening to his stories in the middle of the night when I couldn't sleep. Even though he was always sick he always had a quiet grace and a determination to not let his illnesses completely take over his life. These people became a permanent part of my life, pretty much adopted me when I needed someone most. You will be missed Uncle and loved, always. Love you Aunt Sue.*

**Danielle Parker** - January 08, 2015 at 07:27 PM



“ *Hi Sue and family. sending our deepest sympathies. Remembering a fun day we shared on Cape Cod freezing our feet off in the frigid waters of Wellfleet.. Donald taught Lou how to eat a lobster. Remembering Don as a quiet man of strength with a ready smile and a fishing pole somewhere nearby.  
Sally and Lou Urbano*

**sally** - January 06, 2015 at 08:34 PM

WZ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Wally Zelinski** - January 05, 2015 at 11:02 AM

WZ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Wally Zelinski** - January 05, 2015 at 11:00 AM

SG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Sam Grimes** - December 31, 2014 at 01:35 PM

SG

“ Don and I served together in the 170th Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam. He was a special man who strived to be the best crewchief and he was. Any crew that flew on his helicopter knew it was up to the highest standards and it showed. Don made sure I got out of Vietnam late January 1968 for he replaced me while on the airstrip at Dak To telling me to get out of here, go home. I have had the honor of keeping in touch with Don over the years. Our prayers are with his family for he was taken too soon. God Bless a fellow Buccaneer.

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**Sam Grimes** - December 31, 2014 at 01:29 PM

HW

“ I never met Don in person, but sharing our Vietnam history of both being a helicopter crewchief, and his 170th website guestbook entries saying he was making candles as a "pain" management started me off to help reduce his inventory and become a regular palm wax candle customer from Don the "Candleguy"... I passed along many of his candles to other 170th members as gifts making new followers of his candle business... We then grew our communications to having email exchanges and then as his computer use became less likely, had regular attempts to do phone calls. Don was always full of great stories from his life and recollections from his time in Vietnam with the 170th AHC. In and out of hospitals, it was hard keeping in phone contact with his frequent phone number changes and when were the best times to attempt doing a call - I last talked with Don around Thanksgiving and sadly missed sharing any Christmas Wishes as he passed as I was getting ready to try doing a call. I am going to miss the chance to talk - it always made me feel better... only my knowing Don is now pain free from the affects of Agent Orange makes this acceptable... Henry

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**Henry Winther** - December 31, 2014 at 08:40 AM

LT

“ Thinking of you, Sue. We're so terribly sorry about Don. Our adventures sailing and diving wouldn't have been anywhere near as much fun if you and Don hadn't been there with us. We'll always have the wonderful memories of those times together. Bethany also sends her condolences. She was very saddened to hear of Don's passing. She and Thorp and Don - "the three amigos" !

*Thorp & Linda Thomas*

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**Linda Thomas** - December 31, 2014 at 08:01 AM

HW

“ 1 file added to the album MacKinnon



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**Henry Winther** - December 31, 2014 at 08:00 AM

DK

“ Dennis Kunkel lit a candle in memory of Donald T MacKinnon



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**Dennis Kunkel** - December 30, 2014 at 10:30 PM

DK

*R.I.P. Brother from a former 170 th crewmember.*

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**Dennis Kunkel** - December 30, 2014 at 10:34 PM

GC

*Donald. Thank you for your service, and especially that service in the 170th Aviation company, Vietnam, October 1966-October 1967. You are in a better place; grief remains with family and friends who are still on this earth.*

**George S. Crawford** - December 31, 2014 at 11:22 AM

WZ

*Donny my cousin, you'll definitely be missed. All of our times together were always memorable for sure. Although our visits were few and far between due to distance we always had a wonderful time. I'll always remember our one year stay at Grandma and Grandpa's house in 1955. I remember you catching that snake under the apple tree and the compound fracture of your arm. Donny was riding on the handle bars with a friend and they crashed into the curb as I remember. I was only 5 years old at the time so you know Donny made an impression on me. We didn't get together again until I was 18 at Lake Winnepesaukee NH. A brilliant man, musician, craftsman, and friend. You have a place in many peoples hearts. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sue and Gabe for your loss is the greatest.*

**Wally Zelinski** - January 05, 2015 at 10:53 AM

GE

*Donny you will be missed. You were a man of such strength and courage. You always had a smile on your face and a laugh that was contagious. Many great memories of you when I was growing up. You can rest in peace and yor memories will go on. Till we meet again in N.H. Love you your cousin Gretchen*

**gretchen enns** - January 05, 2015 at 01:17 PM



“ *Michelle Simons lit a candle in memory of Donald T MacKinnon*



**Michelle Simons** - December 30, 2014 at 09:19 PM