



## Donald Ray Williams

April 6, 1942 - January 11, 2026

Donald Ray Williams, Major General (Ret) CMM, OMM, CD, age 83, fighter pilot took his last flight into the arms of his Lord, Sunday, January 11, 2026. Mercifully he was released from his long and courageous fight with Parkinson's Disease, one he fought with a warrior's ethos, with dignity, grace, and strength. Don was surrounded by his loving family, Bonita Williams, heartfelt soul mate of 62 years and devoted sons Mark and Ryan Williams. His legacy will continue with his sons, Granddaughter, Rachel Williams Odland, her husband Tyrell Oldand & Great Grandson, Brogan Odland, Grandson Matthew Williams, and Granddaughters, Talia and Kaia Williams. Don was the eldest of his siblings who are Clifford Williams, Rhoda Gerard, Gary Williams, Ray Williams and Eugene Williams.

Don was born in Corvallis Oregon and became a naturalized Canadian citizen at the age of

3 when his family moved to Saskatchewan. He joined the RCAF and graduated from Royal Military College in 1963 with a degree in civil engineering. Don completed his flight training and married Bonita Smith in her hometown of Banff, Alberta, Canada. Their military journey together encompassed living in 4 countries, with The Villages been their final and twenty fifth move. Don reached the peak of his career as the Commander of Canadian Defense Liaison Staff, Canadian Defense Attache, Canadian Embassy, Washington DC. He was appointed to the highest grade in the

Order of Military Merit CMM. Don would remark, unpretentiously, that he had a successful career as his takeoffs equaled his landings. Retired from The RCAF in 1996, put on a business suit to join a US subsidiary of BAE Systems, a global defense, security and aerospace company. Later he formed his own company Rymark Business Solutions, Strategic Program Management for DOD and other Defense companies.

Don was a leader, one dedicated to protecting his family, teaching his sons to project themselves to succeed living in a military family. He exposed them to worldwide experiences and taught them to be good men. Yearly vacations centered around the family clan of grandparents, siblings, and grandchildren, gathering around the abundant lakes of MN and WI; and in the winter, skiing, always searching for the best powder. It was during these vacations that the teaching continued with every experience and new life lessons were learned. He epitomized leadership by example!

Don was a masterful bridge player, a voracious reader and with his clever intellect and his subtle sense of humor kept us laughing to the very end. He was dedicated to fitness, once recruited to play football for the Saskatchewan Roughriders and continued with his love of the game all through his life. He enjoyed competition, curling, tennis and playing golf with good-natured rivalry, mostly with all his brothers and sons.

As a dual citizen of Canada and the USA, we are grateful beyond measure for all Don did for our countries. And we are blessed beyond measure to have loved and been loved by this remarkable man. He will be profoundly missed and forever remembered with love and gratitude within our hearts, and we are immensely fortunate to call him ours.

Memorial for Don

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

1:00 - 3:00 pm est

Beyers Funeral Home  
134 North HWY 27/441  
Lady Lake, FL 32162

Following:

A Celebration of Life (venue details will follow)

Donations (not required) in lieu of flowers: Michael J Fox Foundation for  
Parkinson research.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 14. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Lady Lake  
134 N US Highway 441  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
(352) 753-4444

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Ray Williams*



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**Beyers Funeral Home** - January 13 at 11:26 AM

CR

*Fond farewell, Don*

*From our halcyon days on the RMC Redmen gridiron, 2 FTS Instructors & golfing together at Sky King's Memorial Tourney on our 25th Reunion.*

*Remembering one of our finest RCAF warriors -TDV  
Carol & David Lett*

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**Colonel David K. Lett RCAF ret** - January 13 at 02:44 PM

SK

“ *My thoughts & prayers are with Don's wife, Bonita, & family during this sad time.*

*I worked & played golf with him, he was a very fine gentleman. He will be missed*

*Sandy Klug 🙏*

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**Sandy Klug** - January 26 at 09:53 AM

SC

“They say golf is a game of moments, and we feel so lucky to have shared so many of them with Don. Looking at this picture brings back the laughter and the camaraderie we all enjoyed together at Mission Resort. Sending you much love as we keep his memory alive.”



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**Susan Emmons & Bill Colley** - January 21 at 12:24 PM

SC

*“They say golf is a game of moments, and we feel so lucky to have shared so many of them with Don. Looking at this picture brings back the laughter and the camaraderie we all enjoyed together at Mission. Sending you much love as we keep his memory alive.”*

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**Susan Emmons & Bill Colley** - January 21 at 12:25 PM

TF

“Dearest Bonnie and sons,

*Tad and I would like to convey our heartfelt condolences to you and the family. Our time in North Bay was made so much better with you and Don.*

*Although sometimes appearing gruff in nature, he could always take a ribbing on and off duty.*

*We are both very proud to have served under Don’s leadership.*

*“Per Aspera ad Astra”*

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**Tad & Terry Findley** - January 13 at 01:54 PM

MI

“ Heartfelt Sympathy from the Ralph Family to the Williams Clan. May you all find comfort in knowing you were kind and caring during Don's earthly life. He was definitely the epitome of a life well lived. We have Fond Memories of our times spent together starting in the early 80,s in Mose Jaw, with many enjoyable visits in different cities over many years. Our last being in Banff celebrating Bonnie's 80 th with Don as a gracious host. During those years we shared many Golf Games and Family times. We are very grateful for Don's kind Friendship. R.I.P

Marnie and Wayne Ralph and Family i - January 12 at 11:01 PM

CF

“ You have my heartfelt sympathy for your recent loss.

Chantal Fremit - January 12 at 10:33 PM

CD

“ Clifford D. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Ray Williams.



Clifford D. - January 12 at 10:14 PM

CD

“ Clifford D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Ray Williams.

Clifford D. - January 12 at 10:14 PM



“ *Final flight west. Deepest condolences.*

*Pat and Marjorie Ellison*



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**Patrick Ellison** - January 12 at 04:30 PM



“ *Phyllis Huyghebaert lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Williams*



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**Phyllis Huyghebaert** - January 12 at 03:41 PM