



# Donald Roy Sands Jr.

FEB 5, 1949 - AUG 5, 2021



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 8



## **Donald Roy Sands Jr.**

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**D**onald R. “Don” Sands Jr., 72, went home to be with the Lord after a battle with heart and kidney disease on the evening of August 5th surrounded by his family at his home in Annapolis, Maryland.

Don is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Chery, his sons, Brian (Jacqui), Brandon (Heather) and daughter, Shannon Sands. He is also survived by his 7 grandchildren, Ty, Kylie, Brian Jr., Colby, Caroline, Zayden and Emma. Don was the oldest of 12 and survived by Wayne, Darrell, Robin, Julie, Deborah, Nancy, Kevin, Calvin, David and Darlene. Predeceased by his parents Donald Sr. and Ethel, and his brother Kenneth.

Don retired as a Chief Petty Officer (CPO) from the United States Coast Guard after completing more than 20 years of dedicated service to his country. CPO Sands began his service in Fort Dix, NJ. In September 1967, he joined the U.S. Army and attended boot camp there. After completing advanced training at Fort Jackson, SC, Sands spent 18 months in the Republic of Vietnam. After a year at Fort Ord, CA, Chief Sands was released to the inactive reserve in 1970.

Don began his association with the Coast Guard in January of 1974. After a brief indoctrination at the Training Center in Cape May, NJ, he went on to Yeoman “A” School in Petaluma, CA. Upon graduation, he was assigned Independent Duty onboard the Coast Guard buoy tender HORNBEAM, homeported in Woods Hole, MA. Two years later, he was transferred to Coast Guard Headquarters, Officer Assignment Branch in Washington, DC. After 3 years in Washington, Chief Sands was assigned to Group Monterey in California, ending this four-year tour in July of 1983. Then it was back to Petaluma, CA, where Chief Sands served as Chief, Yeoman “A” School. During this tour, Don attended the Chief Petty Officers Academy, graduating in November 1986. In June 1987, CPO Sands reported to Group Baltimore, Maryland, where he served as Administration Division Officer.

Chief Petty Officer Sands’ awards include: the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal with four bronze stars, Commandant’s Letter of Commendation, Coast



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Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with "O" Device, Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Expert Rifle Medal, and Coast Guard Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.

After retiring from the Coast Guard, Don enjoyed a 20+ year career in management working in several leadership positions.

Don was a devote Christian and very involved with his church. Over his lifetime, he served as a Deacon, Trustee, Sunday School Teacher and Choir Director. He and Chery enjoyed spending time together watching "their shows", Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, the Ravens and of course Baseball.

Affectionately known as Papa Sands on the sidelines, he spent countless hours cheering on his kids and grandkids while they competed and performed. Music and writing were two of his passions, he penned many poems and songs for his friends and family.

Don put others above himself. He was known by all to be the first person to lend a hand, offer advice and give encouragement. He loved his family and instilled in his children and grandchildren strong values that serve them well.

Friends are invited to celebrate Don's life at Lasting Tributes Cremation and Funeral Care, 814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 on Saturday, August 28th. A gathering of family and friends will begin at 1pm followed by a Celebration of Life from 3pm – 4pm. Interment at the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery will occur at a later date. In lieu of flowers, a fund has been created to assist Chery with the funeral and future expenses. <https://gofund.me/521262a3>



# Events

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## Memorial Gathering

 **Saturday**, August 28, 2021


 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET


 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**  
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401

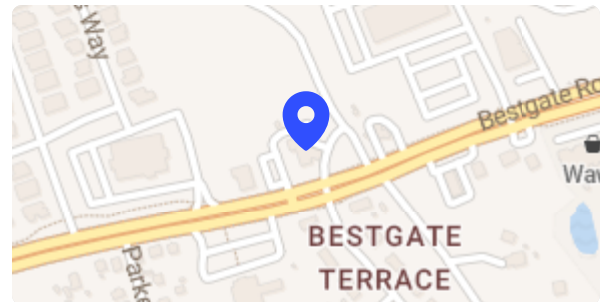


## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, August 28, 2021

 3:00 PM ET

 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**  
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401





## Tribute Wall

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BG

**Bill Gatter** posted:

I was at Training Center Petaluma as one of the Chiefs at Radioman School when Don was in charge of YN School. He was an active member of the Chief Petty Officer's Association of Petaluma, where among other activities, we participated in introducing and mentoring new Chiefs to that exalted position. Great guy...

August 27 at 12:39 PM

BG

**Ben Greenwell** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



August 21 at 4:05 PM



**Catherine Morse** posted:

Sands Family we are sorry for the loss of your Husband, Father and Grandfather. Eternal rest grant unto him Oh Lord, may perpetual light shine upon, may he rest in peace. Sorry we will not be able to make his celebration of Life, because of prior commitments. Hopefully we will see your family in the future. Chuck and Cathy Morse

August 18 at 3:36 PM



**Mark Ostrowski** posted:

Thoughts and prayers for you all. May your joyful memories carry you through your grief to true joyful remembrance. Mark Ostrowski

August 18 at 2:55 PM

GM

**Gm1 Mitchell** posted:

I was stationed with him, on a US Coast Guard Buoy Tender out of Woods Hole on Cape Cod in the seventies ,great guy, solid. I was looking forward to stopping by I am sad to have missed an opportunity - I greve with the other's he has touched in his life.Fare Winds and Following Sea's my Friend, until we meet again--

August 16 at 5:12 PM



## Tribute Wall

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DC

**Debra Chilson** posted:

Don jr was my big brother and I can never say enough good about him. Eighteen years ago when my husband passed he was here by my side with no questions he was my rock once again. I stood by my side and held my hand and never left me. He gave me the strength to make it through the ruffest day of my life. I have a lifetime of memories of him and will hold them close to my heart.

August 16 at 10:34 AM

HA

**Harry Adams** August 18 at 12:07 PM

Don and I graduated together and we were both on the SV wrestling team along with George Shuster. He and I were good and had a lot of good times together. We also went to the Senior Prom with sisters sisters a I'm still married to one of them. 53yrs.

RR

**Robin Sands Ramirez** August 16 at 11:14 AM

Don Junior was my oldest brother that I always looked up to for advice when I turned 18 I moved away from home and lived with him and Cheri and the kids and he help me get a start in life one of my most memorable remembrance of him was when I was four years old and I used to talk to him on the phone when he was in Vietnam and we had to have a third-party translate for us after each sentence we had to say over. And I still remember that like it was yesterday he will be dearly missed

BB

**Barbara Brozene** posted:

My prayers go out to Don's wife and family. I worked with Don for a number of years in Annapolis. I greatly admired him for his work ethics, the way he treated people, and especially his love for his family.

August 16 at 9:06 AM

BS

**Bro. Dan & Jeannette Smith** posted:

I was blessed to know CPO Don Sands from Odenton Baptist Church were our families attended and I also had the pleasure of serving at Coast Guard Group Baltimore with him. He will be missed.SKCM  
Dan Smith

August 16 at 8:26 AM



## Media

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**Ben Greenwell** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

August 21 at 4:05 PM



Christmas Party - 2010 First Baptist Church, Deale, MD



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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