



## Donald M. Douglass

September 12, 1932 - August 4, 2024

Captain Donald Montgomery Douglass, age 91, of Moorestown, New Jersey died peacefully on August 4, 2024 at his home at The Evergreens surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Camden, NJ on September 12, 1932, Donald was the youngest child of Almira Conwell Long and Captain Donald Montgomery Douglass Sr. of Collingswood, NJ.

Donald graduated from Collingswood High School in 1951 where he excelled in football and track. He was inducted into the Collingswood Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. Donald continued to enjoy close ties with Collingswood friends throughout his life, and served as President of the Collingswood Old Grads Club for ten years.

Donald followed the path of his father and grandfather and became an apprentice river pilot in 1951. In 1955, at the conclusion of his apprenticeship, Donald became a river pilot for the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware. Founded in 1896, it is one of the oldest state pilot organizations in the nation. On the Delaware River, and on rivers all over the world, international ships need highly trained local pilots to navigate waters unfamiliar to visiting captains. Delaware Bay and River pilots are experienced mariners responsible for the safe navigation of commercial vessels on the Delaware Bay and River and surrounding waterways.

Donald married Joan Wiercinski in 1963 and they purchased a house in Haddon Township, NJ later that year. Their lovely twin daughters, Carla and Brenda, were born in 1965. In the early 1970's, Donald and Joan built a house in Avalon, NJ where the family spent over forty happy summers. Donald was an avid fisherman and boater, and spent much of his time in the summer fishing in Cape May off of his Mako and Grady White motor boats. During these years, Donald and his family greatly enjoyed the company of two successive Labrador retrievers both named Missy.

Donald retired in 1995 and moved with Joan to The Evergreens in 2014, where they reconnected with Collingswood friends, and made many new friends with fellow residents and Evergreens' employees.

Remaining to cherish Donald's memory are Joan, his wife of 61 years; daughter Carla Douglass Vastine and husband Cole Vastine of Wayne, PA; daughter Brenda Douglass Barrows and her husband John Barrows of West Hartford, CT; and beloved grandchildren

Taylor Vastine of Pennsylvania Furnace, PA; Collin Vastine of Wayne, PA; Andrea Barrows of Philadelphia, PA; and Matthew Barrows of West Hartford, CT. Donald was predeceased by sister Virginia Douglass Glaser and brother George Schellenger Douglass.

Throughout his life, Donald cared about and showed his respect to each person with whom he interacted. He had a lively sense of humor and an ability to turn on the charm until the very end.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 30th at 11 a.m. at the Chapel at The Evergreens, located at 309 Bridgeboro Road in Moorestown, NJ. A reception at The Evergreens will be held immediately following the service. Interment at the Cold Spring Cemetery in Cape May, NJ will be private and held at later date.

Memorial donations in Donald's name may be directed to the Collingswood High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Donations can be mailed to Collingswood High School Athletic Hall of Fame, P. O. Box 512, Collingswood, NJ 08108 or made through the website at <http://www.collingswoodathletichalloffame.org/>

# Cemetery Details

## Cold Springs Cemetery

Cape May, NJ

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chapel of the Evergreens  
309 Bridgebor Rd  
Moorestown, NJ

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ We worked on a few painting projects for Mr. & Mrs. Douglass in the late 90s and early 2000s. They were some of the nicest people you could have asked for as customers. At the end of the work day, Mr. Douglass was generous enough to extend a beer at the closing minutes of the day for the crew. On one of the final days of a project, I took him up on his offer and we talked about his career, retirement and family. He had such a successful life but at the same time so humble and genuine. I told him my wife was expecting in 2002 and he told me how much fun it was raising his girls. He told me he would love to watch football games with his young daughters on each side of him and how it was the best time being a father. I have two grown daughters now myself, 21 & 18, and Mr. Douglass could not have been more right. I wanted to let his daughters know how much their father loved them and what a good man he was. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

---

**John Ahern** - August 14, 2024 at 06:23 AM

BN

“ Dear Douglass Family, I was so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. He was a wonderful man with wonderful stories and always greeted you with a smile! I have fun memories of him, my dad and the other men are 44th St. in Avalon sitting in somebody's garage or back porch drinking a few beers in the afternoon! The stories got much better after those beers. 😎. During our years as neighbors in Avalon, he was an important part of my parents, my, and my children's experience, And he particularly loved hearing stories about my son's experiences in the Coast Guard. He will be missed by all of us on the street but will always be remembered as part of our 44th St. family!

---

**Barbara Nicastro** - August 09, 2024 at 08:43 AM

TD

“ Mrs. Douglass, Brenda and Carla

So sorry to hear of Donald's passing. Raising Sean and Jack next door to such a wonderful neighbor was truly a blessing. The boys were always excited to see him. Down the shore we paid a visit and he took the boys on a boat ride on his Grady White and it was the highlight of their summer. When Jack would go outside he would call out "hey Douglass" then running up to him and he would scoop Jack up and give him a hug! He was a kind and gentle man. We have so many fond memories of Greenman Road. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom ,RuthAnn, Sean and Jack Dailey

---

**Thomas Dailey** - August 08, 2024 at 09:12 AM

JB

“ Pop, as we called him, was a kind, generous and respectful person. As his Son-In-Law, he always treated me with respect whenever we were together. However, he would like to boast to his Avalon neighbors about my big appetite, too. He never forgot when I took the last cookie at dessert. He was not use to having boys in the family! But more importantly, when Annie and Matt came along, it made him so happy to hear about her music and he and Matt talking Eagles and Patriots football.

*He will be missed. Love, JHB*

---

**John Barrows** - August 06, 2024 at 06:05 PM

JM

“ Dear dear Carla and Brenda, I'm so sorry for the loss of your dear dad. I can so easily hear his voice and see his smile, and I remember his big, joyful presence. I'm sorry I never got to go fishing with him, or swim in the bay! Those weekends in Avalon with your folks were so special. Holding you both close at this difficult time, and sending love to your mother.

---

**Julie Martin** - August 06, 2024 at 04:14 PM