



Donald C. Stratton Jr.

March 14, 1932 - July 26, 2022

Donald “Don” Craig Stratton, Jr., beloved father and grandfather, was born March 14, 1932 in Lewistown, PA, the son of Donald Craig Stratton, Sr. and Ruth Davis Stratton. He is survived by his wife Shirley Shuey Statton, his children David Craig Stratton and Sandra Stratton Swint, and three Grandchildren: Jacob, Zachariah, and Matthew Swint. Don served proudly in the U.S. Navy Band as a trombonist from 1949 to 1971. He is a veteran of the Korean War, having served on the U.S.S. Princeton aircraft carrier in the U.S. Pacific fleet in support of combat operations. After the war, his military service included posts in Honolulu, Hawaii, San Diego, CA, and then Washington, D.C., where he became principal trombonist for the U.S. Navy Band. After his military service, where he achieved the rank of Master Chief, he taught for 17 years in the Fairfax County, Virginia school system as a music teacher, in addition to teaching bass clinics, and private lessons. He earned a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in Music Education from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He was the Band Director of Thomas Edison High School in Alexandria, Virginia from 1975 to 1979. Don also played in Washington-area bands for many years as musical accompanist for entertainment legends. A large part of his legacy is the many students he inspired and mentored along the way. Because he believed that “teaching the student is more important than teaching the music,” Don Stratton touched the lives of thousands through his performing and teaching. A Celebration of Life will be held at Grace Methodist Church in Lemoyne, PA on Aug. 13. Visitation is at 10:00 am, and

the service is at 11:00 am. Mr. Stratton will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Penn State University to benefit the Stratton Global Health Fund at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA, P.O. Box 852, Hershey, PA 17033.

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/4xKUxg-Trec>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Grace United Methodist Church
309 Herman Avenue
Lemoyne, PA 17043

Memorial Service

AUG 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Grace United Methodist Church
309 Herman Avenue
Lemoyne, PA 17043

Tribute Wall

KB

“ As a retired U.S. Navy Bandsman I knew and respected Don as a musician and as a person. He was highly respected. He was a responsible and capable leader. He was very much involved with the Navy Band Alumni Association. Hi family should be very proud to have had him as their husband, father and grandfather. I am proud to have served with him.

Karl Bach, MUCS, USN (Ret.)

Karl F Bach - August 24, 2022 at 10:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald C. Stratton Jr..



August 11, 2022 at 09:37 PM

JR

“ I had the opportunity to meet Don at several U.S. Navy Band reunions. I never served with Don, but as a fellow Navy MU, we share so many common memories. Don, rest well now and save us a seat in the band.

Jim Richards, MUCS, USN, ret.

James Richards - August 04, 2022 at 06:41 PM

SE

“ We were blessed to share the talents and friendships of Don and Shirley at First UMC Hershey, especially in choir. I was fortunate to be a friend and neighbor at Cambridge Commons also and will always remember our visits. Susan Edris

Susan Edris - August 03, 2022 at 09:25 AM