



## Donald L. Goin

September 16, 1927 - July 26, 2022

Donald L. Goin of Bourbonnais, affectionately known to some as Trumpet Man and to others as Mr. Cemetery passed away on July 26, 2022 surrounded by loved ones. He was 94 years old.

Don was born Donald Lee Goin on September 16, 1927 in Gary, Indiana to his parents Walter and Irene Goin. He graduated from Sheldon High School in 1945 and although he was turned away by the Navy for color blindness, he proudly served his country in the Merchant Marine Service for four years. After returning home, he moved to Kankakee in 1951. After trying his hand at various jobs, he found his calling at Kankakee Memorial Gardens where he thrived for 43 years. He became manager and served in that role for 38 years. He felt a profound fulfillment in helping families at a difficult time. He continued this calling by working another 16 years at Mound Grove Gardens of Memory. Don generously volunteered his time in many ways. He was the president of the Illinois Cemetery Association as well as holding other offices there. He was a certified mediator at the Victims Assistance Center in Kankakee for 13 years.

Don was an avid photographer and trumpet player. He was known for playing Taps at funerals for over 60 years, beginning at age 16. He played trumpet and bugle for many years at American Legion and VFW ceremonies. He was also a member of several bands including The Kankakee Valley Jazz Band, The Olivet Nazarene University New Horizons Band and The Best We Can Do Marching Band. Don was very active in the Civil War Round Table of

Kankakee.

Don's proudest accomplishment was The Avenue of Flags which he started in 1961. On Memorial Days he had the pathways of Kankakee Memorial Gardens lined with as many as 288 American flags, each representing a fallen soldier interned there. The ceremonies would draw large crowds and include dignitaries like the lieutenant governor and high-ranking military officers.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, brother Richard and sister Patricia Mabbitt. Don is mourned by his wife Debbie of Bourbonnais and his children, Dennis (Donna Jerantowski) of Englewood, Florida and Linda Gocken of Kankakee. He had four grandchildren, Tamara Gocken (Jeff Thacher) of Diamond, Tracie Goin (Paul Baird) of Punta Gorda, Florida, Becky Creek (Brian) of Bourbonnais and Roy Gocken of Green Bay, Wisconsin. He had one great-granddaughter, Morgan Gill (Bailey Lovelady) of Kankakee.

Also surviving are Don's sisters-in-law Bonita (Pete) Chisum of Sarasota, Florida and Carolyn Goin of DeMotte, IN; and special family friend Juanita Thomas of Louisville, Kentucky and her children to whom Don and Debbie were godparents: Daniyah Thomas, Loretta Thomas and Laniyah Pam. They called him Poppy Don.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the 1:00 p.m. funeral service on Monday, August 1, 2022 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Entombment will follow at All Saints Mausoleum in Bourbonnais.

In lieu of flowers donations in his honor may be made to the donor's choice.

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. Route 102  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-2342

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 1. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

AUG 1. 1:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ Don and I met through research in genealogy of our mutual family member who served in the Civil War. I learned so much from him and although we spoke on the phone early on and communicated through letters I never got to meet him on person. I am very sorry for that missed opportunity. Rest In Peace cousin; we will meet on the other side. Ronricki Edith Adams

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**Ronricki Adams** - August 22, 2022 at 06:40 PM

JS

“ We are so sorry to just now learn of Don's passing. He was a family friend since the time our parents joined the Illinois Cemetery Association (later ICFHA). Together they spent 30-plus years serving their communities in the death care industry. Many of those years were spent fighting for education and legislation in the cemetery/death care industry. Don continued to offer insight into the business when we came home to help run the family cemetery - always offering encouragement. His joy for life and love of those he served was always self-evident. He remained on our family Christmas list even after the parents were gone. He loved the connection to family and friends so dear. We will miss his delightful letters. He may be gone but he will not be forgotten. With the fondest of memories...John & Gigi Simmons, High Point NC

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**John Simmons** - August 16, 2022 at 04:37 PM

BC

“ It meant so much to Pete and I when Don was the best man at our wedding. He along with Debbie came all the way to Florida. Pete, my husband has always had a deep connection to Don. We will both miss him very much 💔.

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**Bonita Chisum** - August 01, 2022 at 07:44 AM

JV

“ Mrs. Goin, We are not acquainted but My husband, Lloyd, worked with Don at Memorial Gardens about two years and he was very helpful when we wanted to sell our plots as Lloyd planned to be buried in a Veterans' cemetery. He now rests here in AZ and I will joint him soon as I am 93. Don was a very caring, unpretentious person and we always enjoyed making contact when we visited K3. We left there in 1963. My prayers are with you and the family as you grieve your loss of this fine man.

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**Jeannine Verhoeks** - July 31, 2022 at 02:17 PM

CH

“ What a kind and thoughtful individual he continued to be as he graduated from Sheldon High School with our father in 1945 and they remained friends until our father's passing. I also recall Don dancing or "cutting the rug" with his sister Pat at various Sheldon Alumni Banquets. May treasured memories be of comfort to you during this difficult time.

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**Cindy Eagle & Sheila Huff** - July 29, 2022 at 01:43 PM

 Connie Roberson

“ Don was a very kind person, he helped us many years ago when our daughter passed away, Memorial Gardens was beautiful when Don was there. Prayers for his family.

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**Connie Roberson** - July 28, 2022 at 09:52 AM

PB

“ Will miss you Uncle Donnie. Dad I am sure was very happy to greet you in Heaven.

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**Pamela Bloomquist** - July 28, 2022 at 06:35 AM



“ Goodbye, Don. See you on the other side, sir.

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**Carol Schneider** - July 27, 2022 at 09:58 PM