



## Donald John Sandow

January 3, 1942 - December 24, 2024

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Donald John Sandow, a man of service, love, and friendship, passed away after a brave battle with Parkinson's Disease on December 24, 2024. Born in Bronx, New York, on January 3, 1942, Donald left a lasting legacy of dedication to family, country, and community.

He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Barbara Buonafede Sandow, who he lovingly cared for until her passing in 2017. Donald is survived by his two children, Donald John Sandow and (Karen Gemme) of Tolland, Connecticut, and Wendy Sandow Gleason and (Stephen Gleason) of Lexington, North Carolina. He was a proud grandfather to his cherished granddaughter, Riley Elizabeth Gleason, who brought him endless joy and pride.

Donald's life was defined by service and lifelong friendships. He served his country with honor as a Navy veteran, an experience that remained a source of deep pride throughout his life.

Upon settling in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, he devoted many years to the Stafford Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter, embodying a spirit of selflessness and care for his community. In addition, Donald ran a successful catering business, where his love for good food and his community intertwined, forming lasting friendships and leaving a mark on all those he

served.

In his later years, Donald found a second home in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he built a close-knit group of friends who will deeply miss his warmth and companionship.

Donald will be remembered for his unwavering generosity, his commitment to serving others, and the profound joy he brought to all who knew him. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the strong friendships he formed and, in the memories, shared by those who loved him.

No arrangements have been made as of this time.

Online condolences may be made to [www.summersettfuneralhome.com](http://www.summersettfuneralhome.com).

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Sandow family.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ We are so sorry to hear of Donald’s passing. We remember him in his food truck and the many morning coffees with the morning crew. Donald was a great guy and will be missed by all who knew him. With our sympathy, John and Karen Soukup

John Soukup - December 24, 2024 at 09:23 PM

WG

Thank you. Many great memories for sure.

Wendy Gleason - December 27, 2024 at 10:06 AM

DL

“ Don was a true friend and devoted person. I had the honor of serving with him in the Stafford Springs Fire Department for many years. He was always there to help. Whatever was needed he was there. Prayers to his family, R.I.P  
Bro will see you when he calls me.

Dennis Littell - December 24, 2024 at 08:30 PM

WG

Thank you, many great memories for sure.

Wendy Sandow Gleason - December 27, 2024 at 10:07 AM

KJ

“ Ken McQuaid jr lit a candle in memory of Donald Sandow



Ken McQuaid jr - December 24, 2024 at 06:45 PM

JL

“ I have very fond memories of Don working on the roof with me. He made me laugh when he cut a hole into an insulation board and wore it as a hat because it was too hot. He enjoyed eating fruit cups and had a bunch of them in his cooler. Every hour, he would ask everyone if they wanted a fruit cup. I think he just wanted one himself!

Don also had a special dance I called the Boogie Shuffle. He knew the words to the Boogie Oogie Bugle Boy and would sing and shuffle this hilarious version of a Thirties bebop dance through it.

There are so many more stories I could share about my friend, some of which a little too saucy for here, but the memories of laughing together among friends will always be special to me. Rest in peace, Don.

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**Jenny Low** - December 24, 2024 at 12:53 PM

WG

Thank you Jenny. He loved your friendship and had many great memories with you.

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**Wendy Sandow Gleason** - December 27, 2024 at 10:09 AM

GC

“ Don was the most loving, caring, helpful, generous, special "Uncle" any neighbor could adopt!!! ... actually, we adopted each other. I loved to hear him sing, tell boxing stories, and cook !!! He will be sorely missed, but what a perfect day God chose to bring him home! It speaks volumes of the person he was!

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**Gina Careccia** - December 24, 2024 at 12:19 PM

WG

Thank you Gina. He loved your friendship and we are grateful for everything you have done for Dad.

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**Wendy Sandow Gleason** - December 27, 2024 at 10:10 AM