



Charles Donald English

July 6, 1955 - July 20, 2022

Donnie English was born into a military family at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His family moved to Lakeland in 1964 when Donnie was nine. He became instant friends with neighborhood kids. His favorite days were spent bike riding (which included riding off docks into lakes), and playing football and baseball in neighborhood lots. He worked for the City of Lakeland for 36 years. Over those years his grounds maintenance work area included Lake Morton and the downtown area, ball fields at Peterson Park and Southwest Park, and the Lakeland Center grounds. He also worked at Lake Parker Park where he planted many of its beautiful forest of trees. He was proud to have had, for a number of years, a retention pond near Southwest that had a sign designating it as Little Lake Donnie.

Over the years during spare time, Donnie enjoyed playing softball and volleyball. He especially liked bike riding Polk County's backroads on breakfast rides with his friends in the bike club. He was a car enthusiast and read the print off every car magazine he bought. He was quick to spot exotic cars on the road, and could identify most cars in movies and TV shows. Donnie enjoyed all kinds of music including rock, jazz, classical, and blues. He often returned to the music of John Michael Talbot with songs such as this (see lyrics below): <https://youtu.be/D2X11zZuvDw>

Donnie had a show-stopper sense of humor where he would drop a comment

into a conversation that would crack everyone up. He also had a memory bank of songs, parts of which he would sing based on snippets of conversation. He enjoyed reading about history and had love/hate relationships with playing his trumpet and following current events.

Donnie loved his son, Will, who was a joy and blessing to him every day. He loved his family well, his wife Jaynie Garnett English, his daughter-in-law Monica Armes English, his sisters Sandy English Razabdouski and Debbie English Regan (Kevin), and his nephew Michael Razabdouski. He continued to fight through issues of long-term heart failure in order to enjoy more time with them. He now rejoices in being with his parents, Charles and Doris English, and brother-in-law, Clarence Razabdouski, in heaven.

He leaves his family waiting for the day when they can again enjoy his sly smile and unexpected turn of humor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Donnie's name to Winter Haven based Faith X-treme:

<https://www.faithxtreme.org/>

(From Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55)

Holy is His Name

John Michael Talbot

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

And my spirit exalts in God my Savior

For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness

And my name will be forever exalted

For the mighty God has done great things for me

And His mercy will reach from age to age

And holy, holy, holy is His name

He has mercy in every generation

He has revealed His power and His glory
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance
And has lifted up the meek and the lowly
He has come to help His servant Israel
He remembered His promise to our fathers
And holy, holy, holy is His name
And holy, holy, holy is His name

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Burial Park

4620 US Highway 98 S
Lakeland, FL 33812

Previous Events

Burial

JUL **27**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Oak Hill Burial Park
4620 US Highway 98 S
Lakeland, FL 33812

Tribute Wall

LK

“ So sorry to hear of Donnie's passing. I had the privilege of meeting his wife many years ago at a music shop. Donnie and my brothers grew up together. My thoughts are with Donnie's wife (Jaynie) and his sisters Sandy and Debbie during this difficult time.



Lynda Kirkland - July 25, 2022 at 11:56 AM

GB

“ I can remember when Charles had braces and blew a horn. We'd play ball with the other guys in the neighborhood in a field behind Watkins Clinic.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gary Bence - July 24, 2022 at 09:30 PM

JM

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Donnie, worked with him many years with the parks and recreation department and got to see him regularly at Lake Miriam publix as he shopped for his family and I work there since my retirement, we talked a lot about the times we shared at the ballfields and the different people we worked with, I will miss my friend,

Jerry Morgan

Jerry D Morgan - July 22, 2022 at 05:16 PM

BJ

I am so very sorry to hear of Donnie's passing. I was the City Nurse for over 20 years, and we interacted over the years. Donnie was always a joy to have in my city office. Then after my retirement, I would visit with him at the Lake Miriam Publix. R.I.P. Donnie

Barbara Jordan - July 22, 2022 at 06:13 PM

FW

We were all apart of West Lane Gang , the Whittles , Kilgore's, Harris and many more our families grew as one and have most remain friends today RIP my friend may God be with your family at this sad day

Faye Whittle - July 22, 2022 at 06:41 PM

TM

Great guy, was my first foreman at Lake Parker Park back in 1989.

TROY MCCAIN - July 22, 2022 at 09:15 PM

RB

My condolences to the family on the passing of Donnie. I grew up with Donnie (I was five years younger) at Parkview Baptist Church. After that, we both worked at the COL, and kept up when refueling at the Motor Pool. R.I.P.

Rick Beale - July 23, 2022 at 10:37 AM