



Donald C. Dempsey

December 30, 1934 - December 31, 2016

DONALD C.
DEMPSEY, 82

LAKELAND - Donald C. Dempsey, age 82, of Lakeland, FL passed away Saturday, December 31, 2016. He lived to make people smile. He was born in Miami, FL on December 30, 1934 to John and Rita Dempsey and grew up in Chattanooga, TN. He and his wife Nita Dempsey were married in 1957 and moved to Lakeland, FL in 1958. He was a veteran of the Korean War, that cost him most of his hearing. As a high school drop out, he worked full time and obtained his GED and then his Associates Degree from Polk Community College. He then graduated from St. Leo College with a Bachelor's Degree and earned his Master's Degree in criminology from Rollins College. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy. He served the Lakeland Police Department from 1963 to 1978 where he was nominated five times for the Officer of the Year by the Presidents Roundtable and won Officer of the Year in 1974 and 1976. He served as a Major with the Polk County Sheriff's Office. He was a member of First Baptist Church at the Mall , Lakeland. He is preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, John, Bill, and Bob. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Nita Dempsey: son Richard (Christy) Dempsey, daughter Tracie (Tony) Johnson, son Corey (Becky) Dempsey, 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and his faithful puppy Major.

Visitation with the family will be Thursday, Jan. 5th from 5:00 - 6:00pm at Gentry-Morrison Funeral at Serenity Gardens, 3350 Mall Hill Drive. Funeral services will begin at 6:00pm. Final interment will take place at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL on Monday Jan. 9th.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation to the American Diabetes Association , P.O. Box 2680, North Canton, OH 44720 or the American Heart Assoc, P.O. Box 21475, St. Petersburg, FL 33742.

Condolences to the family may be offered at www.gentry-morrison.com

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel
3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 858-4474
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 5. 6:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel
3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 858-4474
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald C. Dempsey*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - January 04, 2017 at 09:46 AM



“ *Donald C. Dempsey*

November 17, 2022 at 10:14 AM



“ *Your Verizon G.S.A.T. friends purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Donald C. Dempsey.*



Your Verizon G.S.A.T. friends - January 06, 2017 at 02:21 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Don for many years who gave me the name “reindeer”. His friendly smile and funny tactics to make me laugh will be cherished forever. There are so many that I could share from wearing fed-ex envelopes on his head to paperclip wars. I know he touched so many peoples’ lives, but he always found time to call and leave “humorous” voice messages. Don is one of a kind who loved his family and spoke of “Granny” every time he came into the office and shared many “Major” stories along the way while patiently waiting for his paperwork. I remember when his granddaughter struggled with asthma and the worry he went through with his daughter and family who remained strong to get through the hurdles. Don constantly expressed his appreciation and will be deeply missed by everyone that knew him. My condolences go out to his family who has so many wonderful memories to help get them through this sad time in their lives. God bless, Sharon a/k/a Reindeer

sharon doner - January 05, 2017 at 08:15 AM

BR

“ I am honored to have had the privilege of knowing Don. He had the best stories and the most wonderful sense of humor. There are so many things that make him great...His dedication to his job, his love for his family, his kind heart, his humble nature. I could go on and on but ultimately, it is the lasting impression of what a true gentleman should be. He set the mark for others to follow. Heaven gained an angel and we have amazing memories to carry with us till we meet again!

Brandi - January 04, 2017 at 02:07 PM