



## Donald E. Henson, Ph.D.

May 21, 1944 - April 11, 2022

Donald E. Henson, Ph.D. 77, of Bonita Springs, FL died on April 11, 2022 in Naples, FL. Don was born on May 21, 1944 in Sterling, IL a son of the late Kermit and Charlotte (Scott) Henson. He grew up in Sterling, lived in Southern Illinois and then Springfield until he became a resident of Bonita Springs in June of 2018.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Louisiana State University in 1968. He continued his education at Southern Illinois University where he earned his Master's in Behavior Modification in 1970 and his Ph.D. in Psychology in 1977.

His career began while he was still a student. He worked as a Graduate Research Assistant, a Visiting Assistant Professor, Research Associate, Behavioral Scientist, and Staff Psychologist. In 1983, he began working as a Medical Consultant with the Illinois Department of Human Services, Disability Determination Services, in Springfield, IL. He held that position until his retirement in 2018. He was also a member of the American Psychological Association and the Illinois Psychological Association.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Stefany J. Henson (Steingraber) of Bonita Springs, FL; his three brothers, John Henson (Marie) of Sterling, IL, Tom Henson (Marlys) of Mesa, AZ and David Henson

(Suzanne) of Chicago and his sister, Karen Garza (Robert) of Sterling, IL. Also four daughters, Michelle Petermeyer (Rick) of Springfield, IL, Melanie Derry (John) of Asheville, NC, Shannon Hemberger (Scott) of Springfield, Trisha Hibbs (John) of Orangevale, CA and seven grandchildren, Lauren, Zachary, Lilly, Quentin, Delaney, Callum, Phoebe and several nieces and nephews.

Don's pursuits were many and varied but handball in all its forms was his ongoing passion. The kingpin of Springfield handball, he was personally responsible for the "Capital Punishment Doubles" tourney. Always a superb athlete, when the occasional injury and advancing age began to supplant his youth, his guile and street-savvy made him a true chess master on the court earning him the nickname "el Gato" among his opponents. Small wonder that he began and ended his day thinking about his next game. Don loved handball. And handball loved Don. He will be missed by many.

Services for Don are being scheduled for later this summer in both Springfield and Sterling, IL and will be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions in Don's name may be made to the United States Handball Association, 2333 N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716, [www.ushandball.org](http://www.ushandball.org).

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald E. Henson, Ph.D.*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *I remember Don so very well and he was a friend to me when I first came to the Department of Behavior Modification. I remember his research on Sexual Behavior with Harris Rubin, PhD and his coming to my birthday party when I first came to Carbondale. He had such a wry humor and loved talking to him about human behavior and his research. I remember how close he and Claudia were and how close we all were at the then Anna State Hospital Behavior Research Lab. For me, he will be truly missed. He was one of the great ones! Sheldon Kaplan*

**Sheldon Kaplan** - August 17, 2023 at 01:34 PM



“ *Don was a kind and thoughtful friend who had a wonderful laugh grounded in an astute and wicked sense of humor and a great mind Don dearly loved Michelle and Melanie and found great joy in his life with Stephanie. We shared good memories from graduate school in Southern Illinois, mutual friends and visits at my parents' farm in Central Illinois. I am grateful to have known Don for many years, and am grateful to have heard his laugh one more time as he bravely faced illness. May fond memories of this really good man comfort those who loved him in the difficult days ahead.*

**Pat Armstrong** - May 06, 2022 at 03:23 PM

HD

“ Dr. Hensen was a true joy to work with and he was always in good spirit. He was enjoyable to talk to seemed very calm and collected at all times. My sincere prayer is for his family to know he cared about people and was a kind soul. God be with you.

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**Hewitt Hue Douglass** - May 01, 2022 at 10:14 PM

TB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Henson for many years at the DDS. He was always very knowledgeable, conscientious, and cooperative. I fondly recall his glasses resting near the end of his nose as he would carefully pour over a case file before making his rating on the claim. Don was admired, well-liked and respected by his co-workers, colleagues, and many friends at the Bureau. rest in peace, Doc!

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**Tommy Bryden** - April 21, 2022 at 07:41 PM

TC

“ I had the privilege of working with Don for a number of years, but I remember him most from all the times I saw him running by as I plodded along walking my dog. I wish his family the best.

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**Terri Castles** - April 19, 2022 at 08:21 PM

BS

“ Melanie, Michelle and family,

*I am sincerely sorry for your loss. I have very fond memories of Don. From his dry wit to his unruly curls, he was always so kind and wonderful. May your loving memories bring you comfort always.*

*With love,  
Bissi Shafer*

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**Bissi Shafer** - April 18, 2022 at 01:07 PM

PB

“ Don was truly a great guy and a super handball player- I'll never forget his love for the game and the good times we had - I will never forget the times we played handball and the friendship we had!  
*Patrick Butler Spfld il*

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**patrick butler** - April 17, 2022 at 09:53 PM

LW

“ Stef - I'm so very sorry for your loss. I think of you often & will be praying for you & Don's family in the days to come.

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**Laura Wanless** - April 17, 2022 at 08:15 PM

DB

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing. I will always cherish our lunch hour visits. We are glad we had lunch with Stefany and Don on our last visit to Florida.  
*Marylee and Dave Babbs*

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**Dave Babbs** - April 16, 2022 at 08:22 PM

JC

“ I had the honor, privilege, and joy of knowing and working with Don at the DDS. His quiet smile, dry humor and great wisdom made him a wonderful coworker! May he rest in everlasting peace, knowing that he was loved, honored, and cherished by those who knew him!

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**Jeanette Crown** - April 16, 2022 at 07:16 PM