



Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen

September 24, 1969 - June 24, 2023

Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen passed away peacefully on June 24, 2023, in Bonita Springs, Florida. Donald was born on September 24, 1969, in Dubuque, Iowa to Donald R. and Suzanne M. Vandermillen. He attended St. Joseph's grade school, Wahlert High School, and the University of Dubuque and worked in the golf industry for over 30 years as a member of the Professional Golfers' Association. Over the course of his career, he worked at several golf courses in Iowa and Florida including Bunker Hill Golf Course, Dubuque Golf & Country Club, The Meadows, Pelican Sound, and Twin Eagles. At the time of his death, he was the Head Golf Professional at Glen Eagle Golf and Country Club in Naples, Florida. He was not only an accomplished player but an outstanding teacher of the game. He helped countless individuals improve their swing and enjoy the game of golf.

Harry touched so many people over the course of his life. His friends and family always appreciated his sense of humor and his kindness to others. His sense of humor growing up – usually displayed at the family dinner table, was legendary. His mother sometimes suggested that he missed his calling as a cast member of Saturday Night Live.

Many people have asked how Donald got the nickname "Harry". The nickname originated when he was a baby with a headful of white, curly hair – which resulted in his grandfather Henry referring to him as "Harry White

Cloud”, which was later shortened to Harry. There is still some debate on the correct spelling – Harry or Hairy – but for purposes of this tribute, we went with the spelling preferred by Grandma Sue.

Harry is survived by his three children: Alexandria (Luke) French of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Maggie (Clayton Cole)Vandermillen of Dubuque, Iowa, and Jack Vandermillen of Dubuque, Iowa; grandchildren Henry & Cooper French and Braelyn Cole; his mother, Suzanne Vandermillen (Bonita Springs, FL), sisters Laura (Brian) Keller of Naples, FL and Annie (Eric) Albrecht of Ormond Beach, FL and brother Luke (Dawn) Vandermillen of West Des Moines, IA; nieces Emma Albrecht of Phoenix, AZ, Claire Albrecht of Ormond Beach, FL, Veronica Johnston of Fort Myers, FL, Elise Vandermillen of Lake Forest, CA and nephews Max Johnston of Naples, FL, Luke Vandermillen, Jr. of Laguna Beach, CA and Andrew Vandermillen of Washington, D.C. He was preceded in death by his father, Donald R. Vandermillen, and grandparents Mary Juergens, Joseph Juergens, Mary Veronica Vandermillen, and Henry J. Vandermillen.

A visitation for family and friends will be held Thursday, June 29 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Shikany’s Bonita Funeral Home, 28300 Tamiami Trail South, Bonita Springs, Florida 34134. Funeral services will be held at 6:30 PM. Additional services will be held in Dubuque, Iowa, and will be announced at a later date.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Funeral Service

JUN **29**. 6:30 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Outstanding guy! He always had time for you. The golf business was a perfect fit for Don. He always jabbed me when the Bears beat the Packers which was great fun. My prayers go out to all of his family.*

Keith Sindberg - July 05, 2023 at 11:10 AM



“ *Absolutely shocked, speechless and sad. Such a joyous guy. So, so sorry for his passing.*

Tom Barton - July 02, 2023 at 06:40 AM



“ *On behalf of the SW Florida PGA Chapter Professionals, we wish Harry's family our deepest condolences. He helped so many people enjoy the game of golf and was a leader of his teams. He touched so many lives and made the people around him better. Rest in peace.*

*Matt Oakley, PGA Chapter President
Danny Butts, PGA Chapter Vice President
Justin DeFont, PGA Secretary*

SW Chapter PGA Professionals - June 30, 2023 at 02:23 PM

SP

“ On behalf of the SW Florida Chapter PGA Board and all PGA Members we wish Harry's family our deepest condolences. During his time here in our SW Florida PGA Chapter he helped countless people enjoy the game of golf and helped his fellow teammates at his club improve their lives. We wish the family peace in knowing Harry made our area and the game of golf better. May he rest in peace.

*Matt Oakley, PGA Chapter President
Danny Butts, PGA Chapter Vice President
Justin DeFont, PGA Chapter Secretary*

SW Florida Chapter PGA Professionals - June 30, 2023 at 10:48 AM

PS

“ I always enjoyed the time I spent with H. From junior golf at Bunker to working with him at the Meadows. He was a great guy and will be missed by our whole family.

Pete Schlickman - June 29, 2023 at 09:59 AM

PS

“ Peter S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.

Peter S. - June 29, 2023 at 09:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.



June 29, 2023 at 12:16 AM

DM

“ Don was a great friend. I will miss our talks about life and the game of golf. Rest in peace pro!

Darrin Mccutcheon - June 28, 2023 at 07:02 PM

TE

“ So, Don and I maybe used to get in a little trouble when we were kids. Rumor has it our parents arranged for us NOT to be in any classes together growing up! We used to like lighting fires! After we almost burned down the backyard, our parents took us to the fire station to see pics of kids who were burned by fires..... Don was also the one who taught me how to golf back in grade school. His teaching started early! Of course he was trying to teach me with right handed clubs and I'm a lefty!

*Don, Donald, Dandy Don, Harry..... You are missed my brother!
Always a good man and a good friend! Our loss is heaven's gains.
Here's to you and lots of 'birdies' in that big golf course and n the sky!*

TJ

TJ Ernsdorff - June 28, 2023 at 04:35 PM

DM

“ My first memory of Harry was this little kid who played in our junior tournaments at Bunker Hill GC. He was a fun loving kid and very popular with many friends. In his later years as he turned professional he maintained his popularity and his quick wit. When he moved to Florida we would play golf occasionally and talk or text to stay in touch, I was so happy for him when he landed a couple of head professional positions at nice clubs in Naples. We enjoyed reminiscing about our younger days, about his Dad who he admired so much. He comes from such a great family and I'm so happy to have shared so many memories with him and his family. We will miss you Harry, rest in peace.

Dennis Meyer

Dennis Meyer - June 28, 2023 at 04:32 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.



June 28, 2023 at 03:30 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.



June 28, 2023 at 12:49 PM

CH

“ So sad to hear of Don's passing we went to grade school at St. Joseph's in Dubuque, Iowa together. Prayers for him and his family.
Christine Huseman (Roth)



Christine Huseman - June 28, 2023 at 12:35 PM

BM

“ There are those who make a lasting impression on one's life. Don was one of those individuals. His kindness, humor, and knowledge made for a most favorable lasting memory. RIP our friend.
Chris and Bruce MacGregor

Bruce MacGregor - June 28, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.



June 28, 2023 at 10:55 AM

BL

“ Part of the pain, the sadness now is that we never got the chance to say good-bye. Never got a moment to let him know we wished him well: that we wanted him to get better:, return to us again. He left us so suddenly, too soon. Now the empty space he leaves seems darker because we couldn't tell him how he lifted us up, made us laugh, made a bad golf day better. But we do have the memories, the knowledge he handed out on the 18th tee box in a lesson that gave us the assurance our golf game would improve. That a teacher gifted with humor and love for his job and all of us at GE made a big difference in many ways. Good-bye Don. “May flights of angels sing thee to thy sleep.”

Barbara Leva - June 28, 2023 at 08:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.



June 28, 2023 at 12:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.

June 28, 2023 at 12:57 AM

JS

“ Donald always made me laugh or smile-he was a really good guy!! Prayers to you and your family Sue. Love ya

Jeff Swift - June 27, 2023 at 02:54 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Donald William "Harry" Vandermillen.*



June 27, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ *So sorry to hear the loss! The memories and stories I have are unbelievable! There wouldn't be enough room on this page for all for all of them. Prayers to all of you!! Troy Leibold*

Troy Leibold - June 27, 2023 at 11:13 AM