



Donald William Holliman

July 26, 1932 - February 19, 2026

Donald William Holliman, 93, of Stephens City, passed away peacefully at home on February 19, 2026.

Born in Dunstable, England (United Kingdom), Donald lived a remarkable life defined by hard work, resilience, and deep devotion to his family. He served in the British Royal Air Force before immigrating first to Canada and later to the United States, where he built a life through determination and perseverance. Donald worked for many years at Cives Steel Company, earning the respect of colleagues through his strong work ethic and skill. A self-made man, he always placed family first and took great pride in providing for those he loved. He had a lifelong passion for aviation and enjoyed spending time at the Winchester Regional Airport, where he formed many valued friendships. Donald was known for his intelligence, his knack for technology, and his talent for woodworking. Whether building something with his hands or solving a problem with his mind, he approached everything with quiet capability. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58 years, Dorothy Holliman. Donald is survived by his daughter, Kerry Holliman; his granddaughters, Kristen Bush and her husband Steven Bush, and Amy Emerson-Kerns; and his cherished great-grandchildren, Blake Bush and Sophia Kerns. He also leaves behind many friends and loved ones who will remember his steady presence, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to family.

Donald will be remembered as a man of strength, independence, and kindness — someone who built his life through effort and integrity, and whose

legacy lives on in the family he loved so deeply.

A service will be 1:00 pm Friday in Phelps Funeral Chapel 311 Hope Drive Winchester officiated by Pastor Ken Fitzpatrick. Burial will be private.

Friends will be received an hour prior to the service in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice 333 W. Cork Street Winchester, VA 22601.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral Chapel
311 Hope Drive
Winchester, VA 22601

Service

FEB 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral Chapel
311 Hope Drive
Winchester, VA 22601

Tribute Wall

VF

“ Growing up with our homes back to back and Kerry being my best friend I spent good bit of time at the Holliman home. I always thought of Dot and Don as my extra Mom and Dad. Even as adults I would never ask Kerry how is "your" Mom or Dad, and just simply Mom and Dad. I dont know if Kerry ever noticed or realized how I felt. Kerry will always be more than a friend but family to me. Mr. and Mrs. Holliman were salt of the earth. The last few summers I've been able to take my grandkids over to swim. They just loved Mr. Holliman for his kindness and generosity of spirit. My grandson William especially loved to talk to Don. He would rather have spent time talking than swimming. To put this simply when William (9yrs) learned of Don's passing he said Oh that's so sad, he was a really nice man. I learned stuff when I talked to him. To me...that says it all.

Valerie Foley - February 27 at 07:33 AM

JA

“ Dearest Kerry, I just heard about your father's passing and wanted to reach out. I know we haven't spoken in a while, but our friendship has always meant a lot to me. I'm thinking of you and hoping you're surrounded by comfort and support.” Love JoAnna (Day) Athey

JoAnna Athey - February 25 at 10:25 AM

GG

“Some people leave impressions that are quiet, yet deeply lasting. Mr. Hollaman was one of those rare men whose strength was steady, whose character spoke for itself, and whose kindness was felt without fanfare.

I had the privilege of knowing him through his beloved daughter, Kerry. Through her, I saw the values he lived by — honesty, hard work, and a nonjudgmental spirit that made others feel accepted just as they were. He listened without rushing, spoke with sincerity, and carried himself with integrity. There was nothing artificial about him; what you saw was what you got — a genuinely good man. What stands out most to me is a special moment I will always treasure. During a time when he was lovingly caring for his wife, carrying that responsibility with quiet devotion, he still took the time to share something personal with me — his hobby in the basement. He showed me his flight simulator, and I remember how amazingly realistic it was. His eyes lit up as he explained it, and in that space you could see not just the hardworking man and devoted husband, but also the dreamer, the enthusiast, the man who still found joy and wonder.

That moment spoke volumes about who he was. Even while bearing the weight of caregiving, he remained generous with his time. He was proud of what he built, yet humble in sharing it. It was a glimpse into his heart — disciplined, devoted, but still full of curiosity and passion.

Mr. Hollaman's life was defined not by grand gestures, but by steady love, integrity, and dedication. The greatest reflection of his character lives on in Kerry, and in the countless quiet ways he made a difference in the lives of others.

I will always remember the kindness he showed me, the strength he carried, and that remarkable flight simulator — a symbol of a man who, even while grounded in responsibility, never stopped reaching for the sky.

Grover Giffin - February 24 at 09:29 AM

FC

Mr. Holliman...Donald...Don...we only knew one another for a relatively brief amount of time, but I enjoyed your company and respected you beyond measure. Our conversations and raucous banter back and forth were times I always looked forward to. I recall the times I tried to help you with chores around the house. The drives to the landfill. The cookouts in your backyard. The lunches we shared at Subway. Beneath a sometimes rough and gruff exterior was a man of profound love, integrity and kindness. I will forever have fond memories of you that will bring a smile to my face and my heart. My condolences to Kerry, the girls and the grandchildren. ❤️🙏🏻100

Frank Curiel - March 02 at 11:52 AM

CA

“ I went to school with Kerry, and would visit her home and family. They both were very loving, caring parents. They raised a wonderful, caring and loving daughter. My deepest sympathy, much love and many prayers to you Kerry and your children. Love, Charlene (Loy) Anderson.

Charlene Anderson - February 23 at 07:43 PM

PW

“ I have many memories of Dot and Don. I especially remember that after Dot passed Don would come over to our house every Monday morning, and he and Ken would sit in our family room and solve all of the world's problems. He would drink a cup of tea and Ken a Pepsi. Also, Don would always invite our two children, Kimberly and Kevin, and our two grandchildren, Julia and Gregory, to come over to swim in their pool. Of course, he would often say to me, “Phoebe, don't you think you need to mow your grass!!!” I will miss him!! ❤️

Phoebe West - February 23 at 06:47 PM

SW

“ Thinking about all of the times he always showed up for his family. He was always there at every event cracking jokes and poking fun. Many many beautiful summers spent in the pool. That one Christmas where he hosted and hung dozens of ornaments from the ceiling and they were there for years (are they still there? lol). He lived a beautiful life and will be very missed. Cheerio ❤️

Sarah Waters - February 23 at 06:11 PM

TA

“ I will Always be Grateful for the time I was able to spend with him. I brought him his afternoon cup of tea. Asked him how much sugar. And he said, "what size is the spoon?" He got so tickled and we laughed for at least 5 minutes. Then she said, " I still got it. That was pretty funny." Such a sweet, kind, Smart, gentleman.

Tam - February 23 at 06:00 PM

NT

“ Don was a true family man with a huge heart and wicked sense of humor. I remember several visits he made to England with the true love of his life to see family; he paid for me when I was 13 to fly to the US where he taught me to swim, forgave me when I threw up in his plane and introduced me to the Burger King Double Whopper, I knew at that very moment I would end up in the US and 12 years later I was. Thank you, Don you will be missed not just by family, but the many you touched with your kindness.

Nick Tuza - February 23 at 05:54 PM