



## **Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret.**

May 16, 1939 - July 4, 2018

Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret.

TOWNSEND – John Glancy Donovan passed away peacefully on July 4, 2018 at home, surrounded by his loving family, after a short illness. He was the husband of Donna (Montville) Donovan with whom he celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on January 18th. John was born on May 16, 1939 in Boston, MA, son of the late John Oliver Donovan and Mary (Glancy) Donovan of Rockland, MA.

John graduated from Archbishop Williams High School, Braintree, MA in 1957 and received a four year academic scholarship to Boston College where he graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1961. John immediately joined the United States Coast Guard and was commissioned as an Ensign where he served on active duty for four years. He was initially assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard cutter, Hornbeam, stationed in Woods Hole, MA. Upon his retirement from active duty, he began work for the Gillette Company in 1965 until his retirement in 2001. At Gillette, John had several duties including managing the distribution of Gillette's products around the globe. While at Gillette, he continued his career with the Coast Guard, serving in the reserves for 33 years, finally retiring in 1999 with the rank of Captain.

On December 27, 1954, John, at the age of 15, and his friends were involved

with the rescue of a 12 year old girl, Sylvia Monk, who had fallen through the ice while ice skating at Furnace Pond in Pembroke, MA. He received a commendation from the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for bravery in saving a life. In the summer of 1958, at the age of 19, John and his friend John Ransom of Rockland, MA, rescued William Bunar of Brockton, MA off Blackman's Point in Marshfield, MA when his motor boat capsized 300 yards off shore.

John was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed scuba diving, canoeing, camping, fishing and hunting pheasant and woodcock with his English Springer and English Cocker Spaniels. Earlier in his life, he took several canoe trips along the Allagash and Moose rivers in northern, Maine and more recently traveled to England for upland hunting expeditions. He was an active member of the Timberdoodle Club in Temple, NH.

John is survived by his loving wife Donna, her sisters Mary Lamport, Robin Montville, brother William Montville and their families, his three children, Michael G. Donovan and his wife Gina of Ashland, MA; Susan J. Donovan of Billerica, MA and Patricia D. Childs and her husband Greg of Bolton, MA and his brother Robert Glancy Donovan of Plymouth, MA. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Kaleigh, Jack and Shea Donovan and Annie and Will Childs; two nieces, Christine McDougal, Erin Donovan and nephew, Sean Donovan.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 11, 2018; at 11 AM in St. John the Evangelist Church, 1 School St., Townsend. Burial with full military honors will be held privately in the Massachusetts Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to CoastGuard Mutual

Assistance, PO Box 55928, Boston, MA 02241-8001.

# Cemetery Details

## Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery

111 Glenallen Street  
Winchendon, MA

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JUL 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Church  
1 School Street  
Townsend, MA 01469

# Tribute Wall

CT

“ To the Donovan Family,  
On behalf of all of us at Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, we are so very grateful for your many memories and kind donations in Captain Donovan's memory.

Last year we provided over \$6.3m to the field in aid, in disaster and emergency relief, education support and family assistance. Your donations in his honor will ensure that his legacy lives on for the Coast Guard family that we are so grateful to serve. It is clear that he was a man of action and service and know that his time in and out of uniform was dedicated to helping others.

Donna, thank you again for thinking of us in your time of sorrow, and know that your gifts are needed to ensure we remain "Semper Paratus."

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Warmest regards,

Cari Thomas

Rear Admiral, USCG (ret)

Executive Director

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance

[www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org)

703-498-8381



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**Cari Thomas** - July 19, 2018 at 11:58 AM

CW

“ Donna, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know I will remember you all in my prayers. Cathy

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**Cathy Williams** - July 10, 2018 at 09:21 PM



“ *Sincerest Sorrow - Blue and White* was purchased for the family of Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret..



July 10, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ *White Standing Spray* was purchased for the family of Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret..



July 10, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ *Halley and Michael Gilbert* purchased the *White Sympathy Baskets* for the family of Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret..



**Halley and Michael Gilbert** - July 09, 2018 at 07:48 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket* was purchased for the family of Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret..



July 09, 2018 at 05:01 PM

GM

“ Sue and family,  
I am so very sorry to hear of your father's passing. From reading his obituary he was a wonderful man. Please accept my deepest condolences.  
George Mclaughlin

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**George Mclaughlin** - July 09, 2018 at 04:54 PM

PJ

“ Donna, We are so sorry John has passed away. We will miss him seeing him doing all the yard work as well as John taking Kate for a walk. John shared a lot of info on turtles, and other wildlife he would see in the sand pit and woods. I know he loved to hunt for Pheasant with all his dogs. I am sure Kate will miss that too for that was his time for him and Kate to go away for a few days. It gave you a break to Donna as we shared when our husbands would be gone hunting. Mine in the end of Nov. for deer hunting.  
We will continue prayers for you Donna as you go thru this extremely difficult time. If there is anything we can do for you, please call anytime.

Sincerely,  
John, Pat and Andrew

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**Pat & John Jemiolo** - July 09, 2018 at 12:10 PM



LH

“ Love, HealthcareSource purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of Capt. John G. Donovan, USCG Ret..



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**Love, HealthcareSource** - July 09, 2018 at 10:44 AM

NJ

“ *The boys will always remember the delicious BBQ'd Pheasant cookouts and walks with John and the dogs. John was one of nicest guys we've ever met and you will be missed always! We will try and keep the end of the Ridge mowed as he always liked it.*  
*John & Nancy*

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**Nancy & John** - July 09, 2018 at 06:35 AM

SD

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Sue Donovan** - July 07, 2018 at 03:07 PM

JD

“ *So sorry to hear of John's passing. I always will remember the wonderful times our families have had. With love to you all. Janet Daylor*

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**janet daylor** - July 07, 2018 at 07:55 AM