



## Donald John Rocco

March 23, 1947 - February 7, 2021

Born in Newton, New Jersey, the first child of Louis and Dorothy, even as a little boy Donald had a love of airplanes and would build models.

After graduating Newton High School, he attended Teterboro School of Aeronautics and served in Vietnam. It was while continuing his education in Tulsa at Spartan College of Aeronautics, he found the love of his life and married Karen Tyler, who predeceased him on August 22, 2015. In 1977 he began his career doing what he dreamed of as a boy at American Airlines. In addition, he joined the Air National Guard until retirement.

He remained friends with many from high school and enjoyed spending time with his OK friends, which included annual Vegas trips that he and Karen would take with Ed and Anita, and then weekly Saturday movie nights at their house. He also enjoyed going to the gun range and working on his cars. Donald "Rock" was an avid animal lover who adopted many cats and dogs over the years. He also enjoyed seeing the birds at his feeders, particularly the hummingbirds. He will be greatly missed by his sister, Yvonne Rocco-Accumanno (Mario) and his Thanksgiving visits with her children, Sal, Louie and Anna. His brother Thomas (Donna) and his many other nieces and nephews will miss him very much.

He will be laid to rest with Karen at Graceland Memorial park Cemetery in Owasso, Oklahoma. Due to pending weather conditions, the service for Mr. Rocco has been postponed. Dates and times will be announced at a later date. Rest in Peace. Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. 2227 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74105.

Arrangements and services were entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service.

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery

Highway 20 at 145th East Avenue  
Owasso, OK

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service  
9110 N. Garnett Rd.  
Owasso, OK 74055  
<https://www.moweryfs.com/>

## Memorial Service

FEB **22**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service  
9110 N. Garnett Rd.  
Owasso, OK 74055  
<https://www.moweryfs.com/>

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ Don and I served the Oklahoma Air National Guard together in the 138th FW until his retirement from the Guard. He was a traditional and I a technician. Eventually I became a traditional guardsman and got a job at American Airlines just South of the guard base and in 2012 got up with Don again in the Tulsa warehouse QC receiving inspection we got to catch up with each other and work together until his death. He was awesome to work with and with his one finger typing still processed more parts than three inspectors put together. He will be missed! RIP



---

**Michael R Conte** - February 17, 2021 at 04:20 PM

WF

“ During one of Donald and Karen's visits to New Jersey they stopped to see Aunt Fannie (as they always did). On this particular visit my parents were watching our family dog who was less than a year old at the time. From the first moment we began looking for a pet, mom was adamant about selecting a breed that would be good with the kids and for the past year, she had been secure in the knowledge that our dog was a weimaraner. As Donald and Karen entered the house our friendly dog greeted them and my mother proudly explained this is Sadie - Jeffrey's new weimaraner. Without hesitation Donald pointed out that a weimaraner is a tall and lean German hunting dog, what you have here is a pitbull. A perfectly good lie up in smoke. We picked an obscure breed hoping mom would have time to fall in love with Sadie before someone told her the truth. It took almost a year but Donald was the expert who finally let the cat out of the bag. We laughed about that for years. Donald is a good man who will be missed.

---

**Waldron Family** - February 14, 2021 at 09:24 AM

HB

“ Thank you for what you did for our century.  
Thanks for being a good neighbor.

*Herb & Elise Buboltz*

---

**Herb & Elsie Buboltz** - February 13, 2021 at 11:42 PM



“ Don was not a good friend of mine, he was my best friend. I met Don as freshman at Newton High School. During those four years of high school we had the same home room and hung out together nearly every day. We discussing everything and agreed on most things except which was the best car brand and which was the best baseball team. Don liked Dodges and the Dodgers, I like Fords and the Yankees.

*After high school fate put Don and I on different paths. Don eventually went into the Army and Vietnam, I went to work for American Airlines in New York. This morning I reviewed my pilot logbook, it shows a flight that Don and I took in my newly purchased Cessna 140. We flew from Sussex New Jersey to Daytona Beach Florida on February 11, 1968, and returned to Jump Field, Newton New Jersey on February 20, 1968 (we couldn't land back at Sussex, NJ do to the high winds and blizzard we were flying in). Anyone else but Don would have gotten off my plane at the first opportunity, but Don hung in there all the way there and back. I think in a way, my flying prepared Don for the flying he did on a gunship in Vietnam.*

*In the 1970's I convinced Don to work with me at American Airlines in New York. Karen and Don lived in Oceanside NY, and Diane and I lived in Island Park NY, a town a few miles away. It was the best of times. Eventually in the airline business people relocate. Don and Karen moved to Tulsa and Diane and I moved to Nashville.*

*Don became a Crew Chief in Tulsa and I became a Training Supervisor in Nashville. From time to time I'd visit with Don and Karen in Tulsa. Or I'd talk with Don on the phone. Even if a couple years pasted, Don and I could pickup a conversation like we had only talked the day before.*

*In 2008 I retired from American Airlines, but Don continued to work in Tulsa. On January 22nd, of this year I received a phone call from Don. He apologized he didn't send a Christmas Card this year, but it was my fault because he received my card after Christmas. We talked for about an hour, catching up on the news. That was our last conversation.*

*Don was a good man and my best friend.*

---

**Robert Pelt** - February 13, 2021 at 10:33 AM

EZ

“ Don & Ed served together in Vietnam doing 2 tours together & were best buddy's then & now. We even moved from California to retire here back in 2005 so they could be closer to spend more time together and Anita would be closer to his wife Karen.

Ed remembers the time they went out to the Phu Loi gun range to just have fun with the machine guns, hand guns & claymore mines. They noticed that they had started a small fire in a dried out rice paddy, so they walked out to stomp it out. It was about that time that Ed noticed there was live ammunition & war heads visible on the ground so he yelled out to Don, stop don't move, and they slowly walked back in their tracks to the safety area.

About that time they heard laughing & looked up at the 2 guards in the guard tower pointing at them. They put the guns back in the deuce and a half & decided to call it day.

It was a once in a lifetime fun day and were both able to come home to talk about it.

Don, you will be missed buddy.

Ed & Anita Zubrinic

---

Edward & Anita Zubrinic - February 10, 2021 at 02:28 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald John Rocco.



---

February 10, 2021 at 02:04 PM