



Dr. Donald S. Griffin

JUN 23, 1929 - JUN 3, 2025



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Dr. Donald S. Griffin

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Dr. Donald Spray Griffin June 23, 1929 - June 3, 2025

Dr. Donald Spray Griffin, age 95, of Pleasant Hills, PA passed away on June 3, 2025, after a long a productive life. Don graduated from Cornell University in 1951, where he was a member of the varsity rowing team. He received his PhD in structural mechanics from Stanford University in 1958. He served his country as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy at the end of the Korean conflict. He married Susan Pearce in 1952, who was the wonderful mother of his four children. After becoming a widower, he married Barbara Ridley in 1987 and gained three step-daughters and an adventurous post-retirement travel companion.

Most of Don's professional career was with Westinghouse in Pittsburgh as an expert in structural mechanics in the nuclear power field. He was conferred Fellow status in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1980 and served on their Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Committee through 2020.

Don practiced his faith at the Pleasant Hills Church, serving in numerous service and leadership capacities during decades of membership. In recent years, he hosted a church bible study group in his home. His leisure activities included cross-country skiing, bicycling, and travel to all seven continents. But his true leisure passion was racing his Flying Scot sailboat with Barbara at Deep Creek Lake and in other regional regattas, and cruising larger sailboats in tropical destinations with friends and family.

Don was predeceased by his brother Edward L. Griffin, Jr., sister Dorris Griffin North, first wife Susan Pearce Griffin, and second wife Barbara Ridly Griffin. He is survived by his children Abbie Griffin, Frederick Griffin (Elizabeth Griffin), Margaret Griffin (John Enright), and David Griffin; stepdaughters Debbie Ridley, Ayla Ridley, and Lisa Hull (Rick Hull); 6 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren, and 7 step-grandchildren.



Obituary

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A Celebration of Life is scheduled for the main sanctuary of the Pleasant Hills Church, 199 Old Clairton Road, on Monday June 23 at 3:00 pm with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Don's honor to one of his favorite charities: Cornell University, the Pleasant Hills Church, or the Deep Creek Sailing School.





Events

Dr. Donald S. Griffin

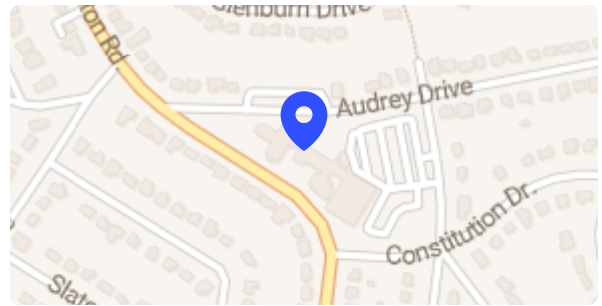
JUN 23, 1929 - JUN 3, 2025

Celebration of Life

 **Monday**, June 23, 2025

 3:00 PM ET

 **Pleasant Hills Church**
199 Old Clairton Road, Pittsburgh PA 15236





Tribute Wall

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Sam Zamrik posted:

Was my associate active in ASME as well Pressure Vessels Division, Outstanding contributor to our young engineers . He will be missed with love and affection

February 3 at 11:36 PM



Sam Zamrik lit a candle in honor of Donald.



February 3 at 11:32 PM



Harry Carpenter posted:

I was just a boy when I first got to know Don Griffin in the mid 1960's. My parents decided on a summer place at Deep Creek Lake and built the cabin at Thousand Acres. We were not sailors at the time and the Griffins were building a lake house a few doors down. They were sailing a Snipe in those days. He became one of my early sailing mentors and I learned a lot about sailing with Don and his family. We eventually got into sailing a Flying Scot and soon after, the Griffins did as well. We have many fond memories of sailing, first against him as crew for Fred, and then later against him and Barb. They were always so gracious, win or lose, and great folks to know both as sailing chums and comrades in our work to promote the Flying Scot. I will be forever grateful to Don and Barb for their friendship and tireless support of sailing and the Flying Scot. I will miss him a lot and offer his family deepest condolences during this sorrowful time. I regret that I will not be able to attend the celebration as we will be in route to the NAC's at Lake Carlyle, IL. I am sure Don would understand. ;-)
- Harry Carpenter – retired president of Flying Scot, Inc.

June 19 at 8:30 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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