

## Donald William Gray

1918 - 2021



Age 102, passed away on January 16, 2021. He was born the day after armistice on November 12, 1918. His parents, Harvey Lincoln Gray and Charlotte Ruth (Marx) Gray received two postcards from Sgt. Ertel, of Genoa, Italy, for "Baby No. 1" and "Baby No. 2" honoring the birth of twins, Donald William and Ronald Harrison. Big brother, Robert Stanley, also welcomed the twins and always remained a support and inspiration for Don. Don graduated McKinley High school in 1936. He worked at Republic

Steel for two years to earn money for college. He graduated Ohio State in 1942 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Upon graduation, he immediately joined the U.S. Army Signal Corps/Air Corps serving from 1942-1946. He served two years in the South Pacific working in military development and administration, more specifically, in Early Warning Radar before being transferred to New Jersey for the rest of his time. He reached the rank of First Lieutenant and was promoted to Captain just months before his release. In 1946, he married Nellie Garcia, and they were married over 57 years. In 1948 he began working for Goodyear Aerospace using his skills in missile guidance and map matching. He retired from Goodyear after 32 years. He was active in church and community service. He was a deacon for five years at Community Christian Church. He was recently a member at Northminster Presbyterian. He was a member of Toastmasters International, and a member of the North Canton Lions Club for 25 years. He was also a Grand Marshal of the parade one year. He and his wife, Nellie, traveled extensively across 48 states and a trip to Spain, Morocco and Portugal. Don loved to garden and filled his pantry and freezer with food that he grew at home. He used his electronic engineering skills to build his own first television set. He attributed his long life to staying active and keeping physically fit. Rather than use the car, he walked to the bank, church, library and barber shop. He kept a gym in the basement, which he used faithfully until past 100 years of age; and he used it occasionally the past two years. He loved the "sunny South" and took five trips to the Carolinas in the past two years with his companion and caregiver, Juanita Christner. He lived fully independent in his own home until a fall in late December required surgery and a stay in the hospital from which he did not recover.

He is predeceased by his parents; wife, Nellie; brother, Robert 1915-2016; twin, Ronald 1918-1945; and a nephew, Daniel Cano. He is survived by a niece, Peggy Ann (Gray) Flippo of Alabama; and a niece, Celeste Martin, of Canton, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Donald and Ronald Gray Scholarship at Northminster Presbyterian, The Ronald Harrison Gray Scholarship at Moody Bible Institute, or a [charity of your choice](#). There will be a service on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 1 p.m. at Forest Hill Cemetery. For those wishing to send condolences please visit [www.reedfuneralhome.com](http://www.reedfuneralhome.com) to sign the online guestbook.