



## Don "Splash" Halcombe

February 15, 1945 - January 2, 2018

Don "Splash" Halcombe (Age 72) of Manassas, Virginia, passed away peacefully in his home on January 2, 2018, after a long illness. He was predeceased by his parents, James and Dorothy, brothers Pete, Lefty, Richie and David, sisters Pat, Emma Jean and Marti.

He is survived by his beloved wife Ginny; his sons Don, Jr. and Dustin, his daughter-in-law Michelle and cherished granddaughter Hadley Grace, along with his sister Anne and brother Charles.

Don was born February 15, 1945 in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Anacostia High School in 1963, he worked for the D.C. Highway Department. He joined the US Army in 1964, serving in South Korea for two of his three years of service. At the end of his service, he returned to the DC Highway Department and worked there until November 1969. In the 70s, he worked for several Washington-area liquor stores, including Pat's Tik Tok and Esquire Liquors.

During that same time, he poured his passion for music into a budding career as a musician. He formed the DC Magnatones, a popular doo-wop band known for its "blue-eyed soul." In 1971, he left the Magnatones and joined The NoWhere Men. He left The NoWhere Men in 1972 and later formed The Second Coming. In the 2000s, Don performed with The Kingsley Winter Band

and performed in local coffee shops; he re-formed The NoWhere Men in 2009.

In 1973 he worked at Pohanka Oldsmobile, where his job fixing water leaks earned him a nickname that would follow him through the rest of his life: "Splash." He met a young receptionist there, Ginny. They married in May 1974 and raised two sons together. They were together until the night he passed, with her by his side.

Beginning in 1978, he worked for many years as a civil draftsman at firms including Patton Harris Rust and Guy, Dewberry & Davis, Bengston, DeBell, Elkin and Titus and Bill Matthews and Associates.

Eventually, he changed career paths again, serving as a designer at the U.S. House of Representatives in the furniture and finance departments. In 1990, he began working at the U.S. Census Bureau as a space management analyst, where he served for 17 years until his retirement in 2007. During his lunch breaks, he would play basketball with men half his age, and keep up with them.

Whether basketball or his other favorite pastime, billiards, he enjoyed hobbies of all kinds. One of his greatest joys was forming the Challenger Program, a baseball league created for players with disabilities, for Coles Little League from 1990-2000. He coached soccer teams for both of his sons. He also served as a weekly columnist for the Potomac News covering events and milestones in Mid-County.

A Celebration of Don's life will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA 20110. with visitation starting at 1:PM, services at 3:00 PM and reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks for donations to be made to:

Centreville High School Guitar Department  
c/o Centreville High School Guitar Department  
6001 Union Mill Road  
Centreville, VA 20124  
In memory of Don Halcombe

Vitas Hospice  
[www.vitascommunityconnection.org](http://www.vitascommunityconnection.org)  
Designate area: Northern Virginia  
Donate in memory of Don Halcombe

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# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 13. 3:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Ginny, I just learned of his passing. I am so sorry for your loss. It is a lasting memory, going to see Don perform in Occoquan. Being your insurance agent was a privilege; the friendship an honor. Retirement has left me out of the loop, and I apologize for this late remembrance. Bill Lytell

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**William Lytell** - April 14, 2018 at 04:16 PM



“ My heart is sad, but in the words of Dylan I know your "Knockin' on Heaven's Door." My deepest condolences to Ginny and family. Missy Vabolis

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**Jackie Vabolis** - January 12, 2018 at 08:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Our Musical Friend*



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**Jackie Vabolis** - January 12, 2018 at 07:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Our Musical Friend*



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**Jackie Vabolis** - January 12, 2018 at 07:58 PM

JV

“ 1 file added to the album *Our Musical Friend*



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**Jackie Vabolis** - January 12, 2018 at 07:58 PM

GT

“ Farewell my friend...we were once competitors at Orr Elementary school for the 1957 title "King of the Playground". We played kickball, dodgeball, and basketball!

*Those are the days I remember fondly and will always cherish your friendship!*

*RIP Don Halcombe.*

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**Guy Antonio Toscano** - January 12, 2018 at 06:33 PM

JH

“ Whoops! I got my "Heights" mixed up. It should be Marlow Heights instead of Hillcrest Heights.

*Love ya Donnie.....*

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**Jim Herbert** - January 12, 2018 at 02:32 PM

JH

“ Donnie, what can I say, you were and remain the life of the party. There are so many good memories of our time together. All the cookouts with volleyball and horseshoes and an occasional joke. The weekend card games or as you put it "board meetings" and an occasional joke. Shooting pool and bowling at the Fair Lanes bowling center in Hillcrest Heights and an occasional joke. Basketball and softball and an occasional joke. Then there was the music and an occasional joke. There's a special place for those that make you smile and I'm sure Donnie will take that stage with a song and an occasional joke.



Our love and prayers to Ginny and my cousins Don and Dustin.

Jim "Nimmie" and Susie Herbert

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Jim Herbert - January 12, 2018 at 11:34 AM

BH

“ Bob Halcombe here, "Richie" & Doris's son--very fond memories of volleyball, horseshoes, crabs, and family reunions/get togethers with all the Halcombes in Ft. Washington and other locales. OH, THE INSANITY! Special times of music, smiles, cutting up, crabbing with hand lines on the Potomac, Italian dinners at the Petrones, rapid fire of paint balls in a mass hysteria of laughter and flurry of footsteps, sightseeing around the District, baseball games, enamored stories of growing up in the Halcombe household and in Anacostia, and the outpouring of love as each Halcombe began life with other wonderful and special people, VERY "unique" people. Whoa heaven, here comes another one.

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Blessings and peace to us all.

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Bob Halcombe - January 11, 2018 at 11:12 PM

DH

“ *Doris Ann, Rich/Tina, Jim/Jane, Bob/Karen Halcombe purchased the A Full Life for the family of Don "Splash" Halcombe.*



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**Doris Ann, Rich/Tina, Jim/Jane, Bob/Karen Halcombe -**  
January 11, 2018 at 10:32 PM

GB

“ *What wonderful and fun memories of Donnie, his Mom and Dad and the family. We were all involved in those early days in the 1960s with Fountain Memorial Baptist Church in DC off Naylor Road and Minnesota Ave. Donnie was a great guy, often very funny and one who enjoyed life. We have some wonderful memories of knowing Donnie and those crazy times in DC. We are sad to see Donnie passing on, But I/we know he will make a "big Splash" in heaven. We send our blessings, love, thoughts and prayers, Gene and Connie Buccelli, (formerly DC/MD and now Charlotte, NC.*

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**Gene & Connie Buccelli -** January 11, 2018 at 08:42 PM



“ *1 file added to the album A Story of a Lifetime*



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**Pierce Funeral Home -** January 11, 2018 at 07:16 AM



“ I have so many stories I could share but one of my favorites is when I was probably around five or six and Uncle Donnie showed up with this huge stuffed animal, Ferdinand the Bull. I absolutely loved it. Apparently he wouldn't leave the carnival game he was playing until he had 4 very large stuffed animals, one for me, one for Dawn, one for Kay and the last for Faye. And even at that young age I felt very special that he thought about and included me. I slept with this Bull every night. I remember my mom one morning walking in my room then gasp and hurriedly left the room. She looked in my room and didn't see me and panicked, I had fallen asleep in between the wall and bed and Ferdinand was hiding me. Like I said it was a huge stuffed animal. Love you Uncle Donnie 💕💕

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**Robin Boswell** - January 07, 2018 at 08:39 PM

DL

“ I grew up with him. Went to Anacostia High School. Orr elementary school. I did not know he lived in this area. Coles little league my children also played in coles little league. We grew up in a great neighborhood. Donald Leigh and Wheaton family send their sympathy. Would love to talk to Anne. 703-369-1673

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**donald leigh** - January 07, 2018 at 11:31 AM

MG

“ Ginny, Don, Dustin, Michelle, Hadley Grace, Ann, Charles your blessed with many memories of one of the best men I have ever known. From a young teen to grown man, Donnie was always Donnie. He loved his family with all of his heart, no one needs to tell you all that, he always let you know, he let all of his friends know how special they are to him as well. Very good athlete, singer, musician he excelled at everything and anything he did. I will always remember our young days down at Fairlawn, the Flats on Minnesota Ave. and in our adult years the times together and conversations which were to few. I didn't want to believe he was so sick. I'm sure he is having quite the reunion with his family and family of friends. Singing and playing music with Billy, Charlie, Hunter, Ronnie, Tommy and more. I'm sure there's some good sounds going on there. I will miss my dear friend until we all meet again, Although we can no longer hold you in our arms we will forever hold you in our hearts, God Bless Donnie rest well brother... Moe & Marie Grimes



Moe Grimes - January 07, 2018 at 01:16 AM

TF

I was his neighbor years, I was on 18th Street he lived on Fairlawn Ave that's how we got to Pennsylvania Ave to shop or hitch hike I always stopped to chat and catch up on everything. In school we'd simply nod, punch, or smile but never took time to talk, we'd save that for later. I remember this guy was like 5 feet 2 inches and had the energy of 10 men. He was always in motion, he played every sport kicked off for Anacostia football team he scored more points in one sandlot basketball game then I scored in a career. He could throw home from center field. After high school we drifted in in different directions we both had cars. Years later I worked at the Beach with a bunch of Southeast guys and after work we'd go the Hurricane in Ocean City nightly for like 3 summers and we'd close the joint and party till dawn with The Second Coming although he and I didn't talk as much there was a bond that didn't need talk, then I moved to California . South East was a different Planet you have to have lived there to understand. REST IN PEACE... TOMMY FORBES

Tom Forbes - January 08, 2018 at 02:02 PM

AH

“ MY DEAR BABY BROTHER WHO WAS ALWAYS CRACKING JOKES AND MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH.ALWAYS KEPT ONES SPIRITS UP EVEN IF HE WAS NOT WELL.HE WILL BE SURELY MISSED.LOVE SIS #2 ANNE

ANNE HERBERT - January 06, 2018 at 10:08 PM

F'

♥♥ heaven has surely gained an angel 😊 what a thought that life ever after is eternal peace. I'm blessed to be his niece.

Faith 'Faye' - January 06, 2018 at 10:31 PM

AM

“ I remember back in 1969 Donnie used to come over to my apartment in Langley Park with his wonderful St. Bernard named Zero and we used to spend hours and hours with a reel to reel tape recorder basically recording anything that came to mind...We used to partake of certain things then use the tape recorder to record nonsense and then speed it up so we sounded like chipmunks..Laughed for hours..I wilnever forget those times when we were so young and experimenting with everything and anything to help us be creative...

Al Marks - January 06, 2018 at 04:29 PM

BC

“ I was married to Lefty. I remember Donnie very well. His dad ruled the house with an iron hand but I can still remember Donnie saying "I don't worry about him any more because I know I can out run him."

Barbara Carrier - January 05, 2018 at 11:51 PM