



Donald R. Oswalt

December 12, 1938 - May 1, 2026

Donald R. Oswalt, age 87, passed away on May 1, 2026, in Sarasota, Florida. He was born on December 12, 1938, in Alliance, Ohio, to LeRoy B. and Freda C. Oswalt.

Don was raised in Alliance, Ohio, and attended Alliance City Schools, where he graduated from Alliance High in 1957. Shortly thereafter, he proudly enlisted in the United States Air Force.

Following four years of service he was honorably discharged in 1961 and made his home in Tallahassee, Florida, until 1964, when he returned to Alliance.

After working various jobs upon his return, Don re-enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1965 beginning a distinguished military career that would span over the next 17 years. He rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and was a proud member of the 2nd Bomb Squadron. During his service, he served as tail gunner on the B-52 bomber, a role that reflected both his courage and dedication to his country.

Following his retirement from the United States Air Force, Don joined the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. From 1982 to 1987, he traveled across the United States as the assistant train electrician. He later entered the

winter quarters for Ringling Brothers Circus in Venice, Florida, where he continued his work with the organization.

Outside of his military and professional life, Don obtained the rank of Eagle Scout while in the Boy Scouts of America. Don was a passionate model builder and a member of the Circus Model Builders of America. He was often recognized in magazines for his precise and detailed model work, a testament to his patience, skill and dedication to his craft.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

His is survived by his siblings: Sandra (Dick) Good of Alliance, Ohio; Dale E. (Sandy) Oswalt of Sarasota, Florida; and Sharon (Dave) Kowaleski of North Canton, Ohio; along with numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews and a good friend Pamela Stone.

A visitation will be held Tuesday, 5/26/26 from 6-8pm at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, 40 N. Orange Av. Sarasota, FL 34236.

A Graveside service with military honors will be Wednesday 5/27/2026, 10:30am at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72 (Clark Road), Sarasota, FL 34241.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 26. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Graveside Service

MAY 27. 10:30 AM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200