



## Wm. Douglas Henderson

April 2, 1965 - January 15, 2021

Dateline: Bethalto

Wm. Douglas Henderson passed away on January 15, 2021 at 3:25 pm at Anderson Hospital. He was surrounded by his immediate family.

He is survived by his mother, Ruth Henderson; brother, Kip (Lynda) Henderson; sister, Tonya (Jim) Swank; half-sister and her children, Rebekah Duplechin (Wendell); a half brother and his children, Aaron Pestoff (Priscilla); nephews, Jimmy Swank and Aslan Henderson; nieces, Brittainy Taylor and Nicole Swank (Viv); great niece and nephews, Marlee and James Swank and Railynn and Mason Taylor; five uncles and five aunts; along with numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father; grandparents; and godmother and godfather, Meredith and Don Arnold.

Doug was born on April 2, 1965. Although he suffered a serious brain injury at birth, was not expected to live 3 hours, had at least 55 surgeries; he embraced life with love, joy, determination and sense of humor. He was especially proud of being a big brother to his younger brother and sister. His enthusiasm brought joy to those who met him.

Too many avoided him because of his appearance to find out what they had in common with him. If they had taken the time, they would have known he could talk for hours about the St. Louis Cardinals. God gave Doug the ability to talk and was nicknamed "Verbal Douglas", by his teacher on his first day of school.

He developed a love of music at an early age with his Fischer price record player. Although he loved many performers, his favorite was Elvis, He visited Graceland at least five times, and was always ready for a trip or adventure.

Doug was a member of Zion Lutheran Church and an avid Cardinal Baseball fan; He and

his Godfather attended the celebration on the 100th anniversary of the creation of the St. Louis Baseball Cardinals. He attended the Ozzie Smith's first and last regular season games, and the induction of Ozzie Smith into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Coopertown. He also attended Bruce Sutter's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His enthusiasm for baseball won his mother over to becoming a baseball fan when they attended a Cardinal Spring Training game. Doug and his mother planned to visit each Major League baseball park, his declining health prevented them from accomplishing their goal; but not before visiting the parks in Cincinnati, Chicago (Wrigley Field), Kansas City, Phoenix, Houston, and Denver. Another highlight of his experience as a baseball fan was pretending to make some double plays, with Doug at first and Kip at second with Ozzie Smith being the short stop in a Cardinal Charity.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 from 5:00 until 7:00 pm at Elias Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home in Bethalto. Visitation will continue and on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 from 10:00 am until the Funeral at 11:00 at Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto. Current COVID-19 regulations will be followed, and masks will be required.

Memorials can be made to the Boys and Girls Club of Bethalto, Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois or the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

# Cemetery

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## Rose Lawn Memory Gardens

10 Erwin Plegge Blvd.

Bethalto, IL, 62010

# Events

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**JAN 19** Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home - Bethalto  
727 E. Bethalto Blvd., Bethalto, IL, US, 62010

**JAN 20** Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Zion Lutheran Church  
625 Church Dr, Bethalto, IL, US, 62010

**JAN 20** Funeral Service 11:00AM

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Zion Lutheran Church  
625 Church Dr, Bethalto, IL, US, 62010

# Comments

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“ My memories of Dougie: Every morning seeing that million dollar smile and a 'good morning' greeting. He was quite the young man at Trimpe.  
Dawn Means

**Dawn Means** - January 27, 2021 at 03:41 PM

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“ I saw the picture of this striking young man this morning but I quickly moved on because I didn't know him, but I found myself going back to that picture this afternoon when I had a moment to read. And as I read, my eyes began to water & a smile came across my face. I realized that this was that sweet little boy that me and my friend Terri would often walk from his school bus out in front of the old Bethalto East to his classroom. We knew him as Dougie. Sweet, precious, happy little Dougie. It warms my heart to read that he had a happy life. I am truly sorry for your loss.

**Kay Gross** - January 19, 2021 at 03:37 PM

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“ The Pestoff Family - Wm. Aaron, Priscilla & kids purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



**The Pestoff Family - Wm. Aaron, Priscilla & kids** - January 19, 2021 at 11:42 AM

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“ One of my greatest pleasures was playing pool with Doug in my basement. He was very competitive and was always challenging me to play him. He was not afraid to take on the best.

Doug originated the philosophy that if you tell a tall tale often enough, people will believe it. According to him he was always beating me. Of course, being competitive myself, I would not let him get away with that! He did "win" some, that way he kept coming back.

I also remember him talking about his bowling experience. It seems that another team in his league was trying to steal him away from his current team. He was quite proud of this, because it said that he was a good bowler.

With Doug being an endless talker, it would be great to hear his conversations with Jesus.

Uncle Leon

Leon Henderson - January 19, 2021 at 12:58 AM

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“ A memory that I have of Doug, and one that he loved to remind me of, was when we were young children shooting hoops at a family gathering. He scored more baskets and loved to remind me of how he won the game. He would talk about it with a huge smile everytime we'd visit throughout the years!

Jim Gilmour - January 18, 2021 at 10:35 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



January 18, 2021 at 10:25 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



January 17, 2021 at 02:31 PM

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“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



January 17, 2021 at 01:53 PM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



January 17, 2021 at 01:33 PM

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“ Pat Perica and Peter Moore purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



**Pat Perica and Peter Moore** - January 17, 2021 at 12:02 PM

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“ I was the executive director of the Boys Club in Bethalto back in the 70's when Doug was a young fella. I received messages over weekend to inform me of his passing by former club kids now in their 50's and 60's, who like all of us love having Doug around. He had tagged himself as "Lightning Lad" and all the members love playing with and involving him in club activities. Rest in peace young man you made many club kids your friend and as admirers.

**Dan Smith** - January 17, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ Thank you

**Tonya Henderson-Swank** - January 18, 2021 at 05:53 PM

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“ I remember how mom would always tell Doug when he hugged to be easy and not squeeze so hard. Every time I would see him he would always say "There's my Hawaiian princess". He would show me his Elvis collection and what he had new. He would want me to either listen to or watch an Elvis movie. If it wasn't Elvis, he was showing me pictures or telling me of baseball trips. I love you Doug. We will see each other again.

**Belinda** - January 17, 2021 at 08:26 AM

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“ Some of my favorite memories of Doug are when we would hug. I would remind him not to squeeze me too hard. That would always bring a huge smile to his face as he was so proud of how strong he was. Oh, yeah. He also never let me forget the time I cheated at Old Maid by marking the card with my teeth. He loved that story and thought it was absolutely hilarious! Luv ya! See you again one day hun!

**Dawn Henderson** - January 16, 2021 at 10:25 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wm. Douglas Henderson.



January 16, 2021 at 10:24 PM