



William Lee Pettis III

September 8, 1969 - September 4, 2025

Our Courageous Warrior; William Lee Pettis III (formally Donnell Hill) sadly fought his last battle on September 4, 2025. He was a Father, Son, Nephew, Uncle, Partner and Friend who truly embodied what it meant to care for others and be there when it really mattered.

Born on September 8, 1969 to Rudolph Hill and Violet Pettis. He attended Brooklyn Park High School and enjoyed participating in Football and Wrestling. He had a special gift of making friends and seeking out the underdog who needed a bear hug, this is why he's had the same friends since Kindergarten. It is not the things that make the Man but the HEART and boy his heart was GOLDEN.

He was a man of sheer determination and will to have his dream come true and become a Proud United States Marine "Oorah Devil Dog" and enlisted in 1988. After bootcamp he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California in 3/1 Kilo Company as a Rifleman and the Units Radioman. LCPL Hill was an Award Decorated Combat Promoted Desert Storm Veteran. During his Military career he got to see the world twice, with fond memories of how each night sky is different and more beautiful than the rest. During his Honorable Service he was awarded the Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 stars. National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Rifle Marksman Badge, Pistol Marksman Badge and Letter of Appreciation. You

don't get that many achievements without the team work of others and he put his faith, loyalty, trust, honor, courage and commitment into the Corp and the Marines he served with. Civilians will never really know what it's like to truly put your life in the hands of others with complete and utter trust, but he did and it is here that he made Brothers for life. This close band of brothers was there for him until he left this planet. Ghost

West Coast, East Coast it didn't matter; he loved to fish. Some of his fondest memories were spent on the water with friends and loved ones. His BESTEST fishing buddy and childhood best friend of forty years, Jimmy Hunter, he loved fishing with you, laughing with you and teasing you. He didn't just love music, he embodied it, lived it, felt it, believed it down to the core of his beautiful soul. Last month he and Taylor spent almost 8,000 apple music minutes together, that's dedication. If your windows weren't rattling then he said the music wasn't loud enough. He loved a great meal, especially a cheeseburger. He thought nothing in life couldn't be solved by eating an In-N-Out 4x4 Stack cheeseburger. He had a fun mischievous spirit and loved to laugh. It didn't matter what he did, he did it with fun, joy, laughter and conviction and an insatiable thirst for life always swinging for the fences and succeeding.

I found this Meme saved in his phone, "If Heaven asks what I'm most proud of, I won't point to my achievements or awards, I'll Point to My Children." He is survived by his cherished children, Phillip, Donnell and Taylor. The pride he had for his children is immeasurable and he loved talking about them.

He is survived by his Devoted Queen Mother, Violet Frances Pettis of Pumphrey. These two were thick as thieves and in it to win it together. Not a day went by without him expressing his gratitude, appreciation, respect and love to his Mother. They have walked this earth as a team with faith in their Lord that God always has a plan even if we don't like it or understand it.

He is survived by his Loving Queen Wife, Shannon O'Connor. The three years we lived, laughed, loved and shared together My Darling King Husband were the most alive I have ever felt in my life and your presence will never be replaced or forgotten because our love is written in our Souls. His best quality was he never knew how special he was, but I did and I scooped up on his loving heart and soul and nurtured it, loved it, healed it and protected it and it was the most honest, loving journey of my life and I wish it was never ending, but Damn What a Ride Baby! I Will Find You in Every Lifetime and Every Universe. Did you Know You Saved Me From The Fall?

He is survived by his Uncle Alexander Pettis. He is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, and a plethora of friends and family that he picked along the way and reached out to and welcomed them into his orbit. He embodied what being a true friend meant and that was his super power.

He was preceded in death by his Dad, Rudolph Hill. He was preceded in death by his beloved grandparents, William Pettis Sr. and Charlotte Pettis, who he respected immensely and loved madly especially his "Charlotte" and it gives me solace to know he is back in her loving arms again. He was preceded in death by his beloved sister, Marla. I know heaven is saying "for real for real again." He was preceded in death by his Uncle William Lee Pettis Jr. You two have a round on me and tell him all about me.

With the uncertainty of his own health, he reached out and embraced others, offering friendship, encouragement, faith, joy, hope, smile and humor at his dialysis center as the proud patient advocate. He was affectionately known as the 'Candyman' and our Daughter teased him relentlessly that he bribed people to be his friend, even though we knew why he was Admired and Cherished. IDF, you were part of his family and he loved you. He always said "it takes an army" and you guys were his army.

He realized during his brief time here on earth that life was precious and to appreciate whatever God puts in front of you and carry on. He did so with a cheerful attitude and bright smile. We are forever changed for the better for having been a part of his universe and we will carry him in our hearts and continue his caring spirit.

In closing, he opened a fortune cookie and it said "Speak the love language of kindness, and you'll touch hearts." He kept that taped in his wallet because I was so excited that the universe saw exactly what he gave others even if he didn't.

It's your End of Watch Marine but We Will Always Have YOUR Six. Rest Easy, Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Semper Fi

In keeping with Williams wishes he will be cremated and no services will be offered. Once again, there's his feistiness and last word.

Please consider being an Organ Donor and Giving the Gift of Life.

Tribute Wall

EB

“ I just found out you had to moved on, We are heartbroken. I still have many fond memories for when we worked for the county, we laughed often and got it done when needed. I'm sorry that we lost contact over the years. I'm glad and honored that we had the time and stories to share that we did. I still remember your favorite words, " FISH ON! "

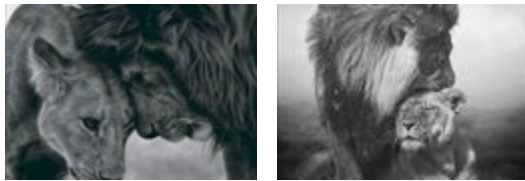
The day we chartered a trip on the bay was a day we'll never forget. Your memory will always be cherished, God Bless you my friend!
Rest in Peace!



Ed B - February 22 at 05:08 PM

SO

“ My Darling King Husband,
Wherever Life Takes Me YOU will always be my Everything.
I Love You More, No Tag Backs,
Your Forever Queen Wife 💋👍❤️😘

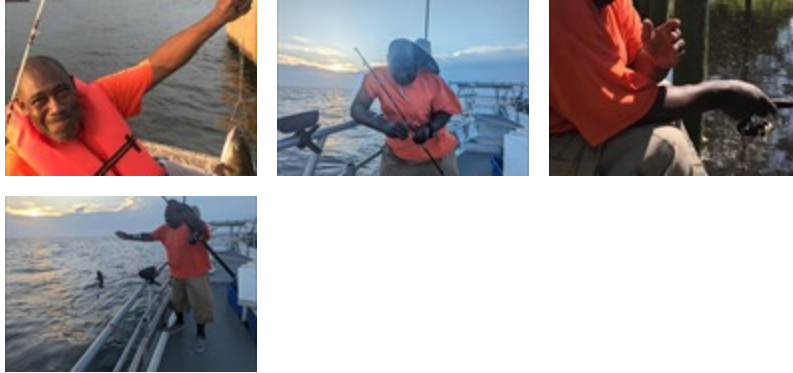


Shannon Oconnor - September 19, 2025 at 01:11 PM

SO

“ You were you so happy fishing. You were at peace. Every sparkle on the water will remind me of you. I sure hope Heaven has good Fish and they’re always biting.

Love Your,
Essie



Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 03:39 AM

SO

“ He Loved being a United States Marine. He loved jumping out of helicopters and diving/swimming in the seas. I’m so happy we went to Tun Tavern and experienced where it all started together.

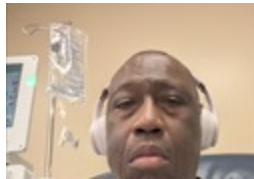
Semper Fi,
My Hero



Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 03:12 AM

SO

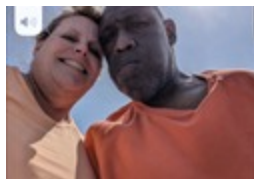
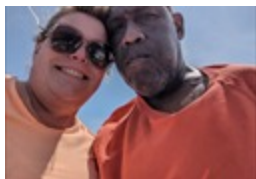
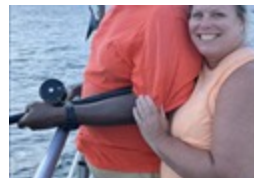
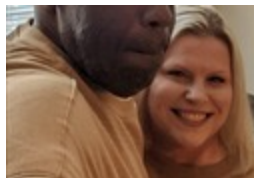
“ *The Man, The Myth, The Legend! A True Original!*



Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 02:33 AM

SO

“ *My Dear King Husband,
I loved that you wanted to wear matching clothes. I loved that you kept my love letters and cards I made you. I loved that you found comfort with your prayer monkeys named CharRue after our beloved grandmothers. I love that you were always up for an adventure, big or small. I love that you expressed your feelings and always made me feel heard, seen treasured and valued. I love that you were a man of your word and no matter how tired you were, you showed up and kept promises and you did so with a smile & gracious heart. Most of All, I Love You! I will carry you in my heart all the days of my life.*



Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 02:24 AM

SO

“ *Papa Bear,*

*Thank you for always showing up for us in big ways and small ways, you were our North Star. You nurtured our heart and souls and gave us a safe happy home in the protection of your loving arms. You always said being a girl Dad is hard, but you made it look easy. You handled it with your warm, soft and patient pose and you always knew what to say to make us feel better. You were up for every adventure we took you on and I'm so happy you and your Twin got to ride roller coasters together, go to Taylor swift concerts together and Junior Prom together. We were so blessed to be called “your girls” and we will carry you on every adventure we go on. We Love, Appreciate and Cherish you!
Your Princess & Queen Wife*



Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 12:28 AM

DR

“ *My heart is broken from losing you. I will forever cherish the memories of you, as a brother. You may be gone from this world ,but you will never be gone from my heart. Life will never be the same without you, and the world feels darker without your light beaming through it, but I am sure you memory will continue to shine brightly in all our hearts :(*

Deborah R. Reveley - September 17, 2025 at 03:30 PM

SO

The world is entirely too quiet without his presence and his ability to light up every room he walked in. Thanks for taking care of our guy, he loved you!

Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 10:22 AM

SO

He loved you, thank you for taking care of our guy! Your bond was special! There will never be another.

Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 04:10 PM

DC

“ *From the first day of meeting Donnell in middle school, he was a kind soul. He spent his life defending everyone else with honor. I was always smaller than everyone, didn't have the best family life and got bullied alot. My first time meeting him was when he stood up for me when the boys were bullying me. We became good friends after that. He always watched over me. We lost touch after school and years later were able to reconnect. Our conversations of old times, fishing, California and family will forever be cherished. He was excited when he found out my grandson was born on his birthday. He always called him his "Birthday Twin" and even attended his birthday party at Chuck-E-Cheese. He became close with my family. He will be loved and missed always. Rest easy in the arms of the angels my dear friend and brave Marine! Save me a fishing spot up there! Oorah! ❤️*



Donna Cade - September 16, 2025 at 08:17 PM

SO

This story warms my heart and I'm so happy he had a wonderful friend like you.

Shannon Oconnor - September 17, 2025 at 10:29 AM

SP

“ To my brother you left us way too soon god had his own plans for you. We will miss your laughter and your super powers to cheer people up when they are down. The most selfless person who always put people first going to miss you love you Bro



Shane Pooler - September 16, 2025 at 04:18 PM

SO

Shane, you were his phone a friend during his illness and no matter the time, you were there to lift him in spirit and I thank you for showing him true friendship and brotherhood.

Shannon Oconnor - September 17, 2025 at 02:20 PM

SO

Shane, you were his phone a friend, no matter the time, day or night; you were the first one to call and check on your brother. I'm forever grateful that he had you to lean on. Thank you!

Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 03:56 AM

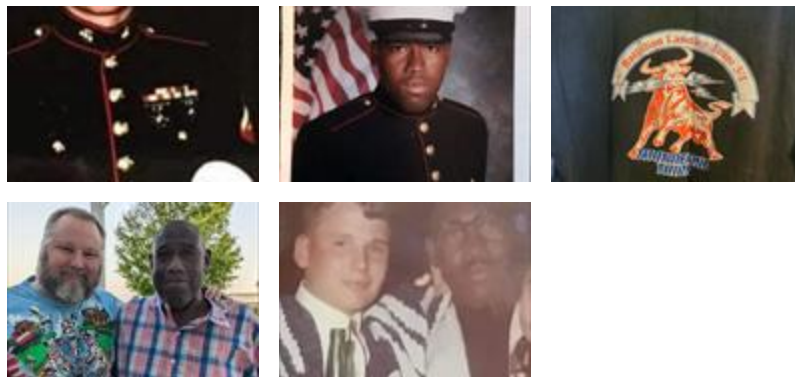
SO

“ My Darling King Husband,
I will search for you through 1,000 worlds and 10,000 lifetimes until I find you.
I will wait for you in all of them.
Love Your Queen Wife

Shannon Oconnor - September 15, 2025 at 10:19 PM

TC

“ William was one of the first to befriend a skinny upstate NY kid. He and I hung out with Jesus Valdez, what a sight we were. Jesus a 5 foot something marine, me at about 6 foot and William was bigger than the 2 of us together. He taught me the Radio operator position and when he was Company RO, I was a Platoon RO. I got back in touch with William about 8 or 9 yrs ago and we picked up where we left off. Saw each other again in Baltimore during a trip and it was just like old time. He taught me alot about being myself and making a good first impression, whether you saw the person again or not ever again. Being a good person on that first time, would leave a mark. Well my friend, my brother, you certainly left your mark. Love you, see you in Valhalla, till then, save some carne asada burritos and taquitos for me.



Thomas Ruffing 3rd Bn 1st Marines Kilo C - September 15, 2025 at 09:16 PM

SO

Tom, you were an outstanding friend and loyal brother to him and I appreciate how you made him feel. He always talked about how much he respected and admired you too. He was never ashamed to express his feelings and he never missed a chance to say how much he loved you. I loved hearing him talk about you and all the adventures you two had. There will never be another truer friend. Semp Fi

Shannon Oconnor - September 17, 2025 at 01:35 PM

SO

Tom, I'm so glad he befriended you! You have been such a great friend and brother. He respected you, loved you and never stopped talking about you. Thank you, I'm forever grateful.
Shannon

Shannon Oconnor - September 18, 2025 at 04:12 AM

TC

“ *My Brother, My Friend. Thank you for all you did and all you taught me. Til Valhalla, Semper Fi*

Thomas Ruffing 3rd Bn 1st Marines Kilo C - September 15, 2025 at 09:13 PM

TN

“ *Shannon, Taylor, and the entire Pettis family, I am so very sorry for your loss. When Shannon first introduced me to Will, I could immediately see what a kind and genuine person he was. He always greeted others with warmth and a smile, and his positive spirit was felt by everyone around him. Donut, my dog, adored him and always loved running up to greet him—especially if he happened to have food in his hand. 😊 He will truly be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.*

Traci (Shannon's neighbor) - September 15, 2025 at 09:08 PM

SO

Beautiful, thank you so much! Doughnut will miss his buddy,

Shannon Oconnor - September 17, 2025 at 01:37 PM

MS

“ I've known his brother almost 40 years. We clicked from the beginning. Women are there many barbecues and picnics together. Nothing could beat his spaghetti. LOL. He said I made the best pancakes but he never trying to make any. We always had each other six. I know he still has my six right now. You fought the good fight brother. Rest easy. See you in heaven. Love you brother.

Milton Simmons - September 15, 2025 at 07:45 PM

JH

“ You were not just my friend,,, you are family always.

james Hunter - September 15, 2025 at 07:44 PM