

# Liam Donnelly Obituary

Liam (W.G.) Donnelly passed away peacefully on 05 January 2017 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin.

Liam was the first Chief Executive Officer of CPA Ireland and he held that position, with distinction, from 1974 to his retirement in December 1993.

During his period of service in CPA Ireland, Liam Donnelly was an effective leader who excited the people around him to exceptional performance. Liam transformed student education and training in CPA Ireland and many of his innovative approaches, such as modular examinations and pre – qualification streaming were subsequently adopted by other professional bodies.

Liam was passionate about the welfare of CPA students and, in recognition of this passion, CPA Ireland, in 2015, initiated the Liam Donnelly Silver Medal which is presented annually to the candidate who has achieved First Place worldwide in the CPA Ireland examinations.

Liam was the driving force behind CPA Ireland acquiring its prestigious offices in 9 Ely Place as well as ensuring that CPA Ireland took its rightful place at CCABI and TALC within Ireland and within FEE (now Accountancy Europe) at international level.

Liam's constant support and encouragement for CPA students is now acknowledged by many successful CPAs as the stimulus they needed to achieve professional qualification.

Liam was an accomplished sportsman who won Minor All-Ireland titles in both hurling and football for his native Dublin. Liam joined the Defence Forces as a Cadet and subsequently served with distinction as an Officer at home and abroad. Liam had a long association with Tuam, Co. Galway where he served in the Artillery Corps and, from that position, he went on to serve in the Congo and was a distinguished veteran of the Siege of Jadotville. Liam campaigned tirelessly to have the bravery of the Irish troops at Jadotville recognised and he and his surviving colleagues were, in 2016, awarded a Citation from the President of Ireland in recognition of that bravery.

Liam Donnelly retired from the Defence Forces in the rank of Commandant and was buried with military honours in Deansgrange Cemetery, Dublin.

Liam is survived by his wife Eileen, son Aidan and daughters Joan and Barbara and their families.

**Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam dílis.**

**May Liam rest in peace.**

