



Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey

November 1, 1952 - September 25, 2025

Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey, age 72, of Jonesboro, Georgia, passed away peacefully in his home on September 25, 2025 surrounded by his entire family. Born on November 1, 1952, in Kansas City, Kansas, to the late William and Lillian Bushey, Don grew up in Mission, KS, attending St. Pius X, Bishop Miege High School, and the University of Kansas. He earned his private pilot license in 1973 from Johnson County Community College, beginning a lifelong career in aviation. By 1974, Don had become a commercial pilot and was soon flying with Lawrence Aviation before earning his flight engineer rating in 1978. In March 1979, he was hired by Delta Air Lines, where he moved his family to Atlanta and rose through the ranks to become Captain in January 1992. After retiring in 2004 as a 757/767 Captain, Don continued to fly with Cargo 360, piloting 747s between Anchorage, Alaska, and Incheon, South Korea, from 2005 to 2007. He then returned to Delta Global Services as a highly respected 757/767 Flight Instructor, a role he held until his passing. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Don's greatest joy was his family. He met the love of his life, Susan, in January 1974, and the two were married in January 1976 at Queen of the Holy Rosary in Overland Park, Kansas. Together they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, and adventure. Don was a devoted husband, father, papa, and brother, known for his quiet strength and unwavering dedication to those he loved. Don was a man of many talents—an exceptional cook who delighted in preparing meals for his family, a skilled woodworker, and a true "Camaro man." He loved being

outdoors, whether working in the yard or traveling the world with Susan. Their most recent trip to Alaska, shared with family, was a life-changing experience he treasured deeply. A faithful and active member of St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Jonesboro, Don's life was rooted in his faith and his love for community.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Lillian Bushey. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 50 years, Susan; his children, Donald Jr. (Elizabeth) Bushey of Jonesboro, Aileen Johnson of Stockbridge, Emily (Oliver) Shaw of Chamblee, and Jacob (Jessica) Bushey of Chamblee; his sisters, Diana (Bill) Rash of Illinois and Deborah (John Cadet) Bushey of Washington; and his cherished grandchildren, Xavier Johnson, Noah Johnson, Isaac Bryant, Aaliyah Bryant, Aarielle Bryant, Lola O'Harris, Lily O'Harris, and Colin Shaw. A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Jonesboro, Georgia. The family will receive friends at the church beginning one hour prior to the service. Interment will take place at Honey Creek Woodlands Cemetery at a later date. Flowers are welcome, or donations may be made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Jonesboro in Don's memory. Don will be remembered as a man of integrity, generosity, and devotion, who left an enduring legacy of love, faith, and family.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 4. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
591 Flint River Rd
Jonesboro, GA 30238

Memorial Mass

OCT 4. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
591 Flint River Rd
Jonesboro, GA 30238

Tribute Wall



“ *Knowing Don was a pleasure, he was a great man. I was young and wild and he made every effort to try to show me the right path. It was an honor knowing you.*

Rich Oharris - March 25 at 11:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.*



October 03, 2025 at 03:59 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.*



October 02, 2025 at 03:04 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.*

October 02, 2025 at 03:04 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



October 02, 2025 at 07:39 AM



“ The BWPHOA purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



The BWPHOA - October 01, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ The BWPHOA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.

The BWPHOA - October 01, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ Melissa, Christopher, Hannah, and Hunter purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



Melissa, Christopher, Hannah, and Hunter - October 01, 2025 at 09:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



September 29, 2025 at 03:30 PM



“ DeKalb County Super District 6 Commissioner Ted Terry shares his heartfelt condolences to Emily Shaw and family. Although there are no easy words for comfort, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. May your father's commitment to serve continue to lead and inspire all that had the opportunity to know Mr. Bushey or his family members as you are reflections of the legacy that will forever shine warmth and compassion!

Commissioner Ted Terry - September 29, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ Love, Paula and Bob purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



Love, Paula and Bob - September 29, 2025 at 09:07 AM



“ Love, Paula and Bob planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.

Love, Paula and Bob - September 29, 2025 at 09:07 AM

AS

“ Andrea and Matthew Stills purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



Andrea and Matthew Stills - September 28, 2025 at 01:40 PM

AS

“ Andrea and Matthew Stills planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.

Andrea and Matthew Stills - September 28, 2025 at 01:40 PM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of flying with Don numerous times. In the course of my 31 year career, only a handful of people stood out in my memory. When you are locked in a cockpit, which is the size of a closet, for 8 to 10 hours a day for 3 to 4 days in a row, you really get to know a person. He was one of the best. My prayers for God's comfort to all who love him. May he rest in God's loving peace.
David Suwinski

David Suwinski - September 27, 2025 at 07:59 PM

MD

“ I worked with Don as an FAA inspector. enjoyed him and had high respect for the way he operated. So sorry for your loss. He will be missed.

Maurie Deming - September 27, 2025 at 07:06 PM

SW

“ Sheree (Helms) and Hal Wolfenden purchased the Divine Light for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



Sheree (Helms) and Hal Wolfenden - September 27, 2025 at 03:51 PM

SW

“ Sheree (Helms) and Hal Wolfenden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.

Sheree (Helms) and Hal Wolfenden - September 27, 2025 at 03:51 PM

HN

“ Harrison Shinn NYC7ERA purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



Harrison Shinn NYC7ERA - September 27, 2025 at 01:25 PM



“ We worked together a handful of times in the sims. We'd be cracking each other up the whole time. I'll be thinking of that every time I walk into the building.
My deepest condolences to Don's family.

Harrison Shinn - September 27, 2025 at 01:13 PM

KC

“ Remembering going to aunt Lillian and uncle bills house and he liked shooting off bottle rockets

karen curley, 《rock) - September 27, 2025 at 12:43 PM

BR

“ Bill and Diana Rash purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Joseph "Don" Bushey.



Bill and Diana Rash - September 27, 2025 at 12:17 PM

DG

“ Don and his wife Susan were regulars when I used to bartend at La Parrilla in McDonough between 2009 and 2012. Don was always in a great mood and had a great sense of humor. It was always exciting to see Don and Susan walk through the door and sit at the bar where we would share great talks and laughs while I served them. Don will be greatly missed.

Diego Gomez - September 27, 2025 at 11:55 AM