

OBITUARY

Don Carlson McHugh

APRIL 29, 1946 - JANUARY 21, 2023

IN THE CARE OF

[Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home](#)

Don Carlson McHugh, 76, of St. Simons Island, Georgia, died in his sleep at home on January 21, 2023. Don was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Kathryn Markle McHugh (Kitty).

Don was born in Birmingham, Alabama to Manuel Lamar McHugh and Minnie Lee McHugh. He was a graduate of Shades Valley High School and Auburn University where he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He graduated from Auburn with Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and Civil Engineering. Don's professional journey as an engineer landed him on St. Simons Island in 1998 where he spent the remainder of his career working for the Department of Natural Resources for the state of Georgia as an Environmental Engineer in the Environmental Protection Division (Coastal District).

Don served in the Army during the Vietnam War. Before being sent overseas, he graduated 1st in his class from the Army NCO which earned him the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6). He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, which is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by heroism or outstanding achievement. He also received the following: National Defense Service Medal, Sharpshooter/Marksmanship Badges for the M-14 and M-16, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and the Overseas Service Bar.

After retirement, Don enjoyed renovating his home on St. Simons Island and traveling with his wife, Kitty, to Ireland, Scotland, and Hawaii. He enjoyed visiting his children, their spouses, and his grandsons who live in Texas and Colorado. Don also enjoyed researching his family lineage and loved sharing information about his Great-Great-Great Grandfather, William Weatherford, also known as Red Eagle, a celebrated Chief of the Creek Nation. Don was an avid Auburn Football fan and enjoyed being a member of the Golden Isles Auburn Club where he could cheer on his Tigers. War Eagle!

Don is survived by his children Don Christopher McHugh (Melissa) and Laurie McHugh Kjeldgaard (Eric). He is also survived by his sister Pam Wootton (Dave), sister-in-law Betty Sibley (Bruce Person), brother-in-law Charles Markle (Ellen Behrend), grandchildren Wesley and Nick McHugh of Burleson, Texas and Graham Kjeldgaard of Golden, Colorado. Nieces and nephews include: Markelle Thompson (Jake and Kendal), Bryan Sibley (Beth), Patrick Wootton (Allison, Blake, Morgan), Kimberly Harn (Marty, Logan, Hudson), Stephen and Elise Markle. Jennifer Shuler (Ben and Anderson) and Michelle St. Clair (Scott, Samantha, and Branden) were considered second daughters to him.

Cremation was performed by Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home of Brunswick, GA. The family will be honoring Don's wishes by having him buried at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery in Alabama. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for any donations in memory of Don C. McHugh to go to any of the following: The Wounded Warrior Project; Disabled American Veterans; or Veterans Administration.

Although Don's death was unexpected, his surviving family rejoices in the knowledge that he was welcomed into Paradise with a raucous celebration led by his beloved wife, Kitty, his parents, and many friends.

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In Memory Of Don Carlson McHugh



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8

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2

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James Barber
Friend

01/28/2023

Don was a great friend, fraternity-pledge brother, true hero to all who really knew him. Old school in many ways with a heart and soul that helped him and Kitty thru man up even more all the time.

Both are missed and we are better people because they passed thru our lives and

Jim Barber



[+ ADD A COMMENT](#)

My sincere sympathy to Laurie, Chris, and Pam and all Don's family.

Betty Corbin
Friend

01/29/2023

I knew Kitty all my life and Don for over 50 years, and they were special friends. We were all great Auburn fans, and after Kitty's death, Don and I still talked on the phone on most every football Saturday. I loved my annual fall trip to St. Simons where we watched football and took walks with Sandy through their beautiful neighborhood. Don will be greatly missed.



[+ ADD A COMMENT](#)



Tom Hopkins
Friend

01/27/2023

Don in Vietnam, sometime prior to his DEROS, March 15, 1971, from a picture h

Tom Hopkins
Friend

♡ 1

01/27/2023

+ ADD A COMMENT

I am so sorry to hear about Don. I worked with Don the whole time he was at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. I think he hired on in 1985. We were fellow Vietnam veterans. I only saw him once or twice after he and Kitty moved to St. Simons Island, but we exchanged a few e-mails every year.

He was very proud of his Army service as a non-commissioned officer and we traded insults since I was a 2nd lieutenant. He went to Vietnam about 2 years before me and served in combat with the 4th Infantry Division. I was in the 20th Engineer Brigade far away from combat.

Godspeed, SSG McHugh, I'll miss your humor.

♡ 1

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