



Don Lee Walsh

JUL 31, 1936 - FEB 16, 2023



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Don Lee Walsh

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Don Lee Walsh was born on July 31, 1936, in Trinity County, California.

Don spoke often about his youth in the Trinity Alps, fishing, riding horses, dancing, and learning every inch of the mountains and streams. At age fourteen, he lied and claimed he was eighteen years old so that he could volunteer to fight forest fires. He did the terrifying work for two years before he was placed on the payroll. Don was a natural leader and incredibly brave. Fearless is often a word people used to describe him.

As a teenager, Don was a bit of a prankster. He and his best friend went a little too far one day, and their high school principal cut them a deal: enlist in the military and he'd hand them their diplomas. Off the boys went to San Francisco to enlist in the French Foreign Legion. Unable to locate the office, they decided the Air Force was a good second choice. In 1954, Don joined the United States Air Force, where he excelled and found his passion. He graduated from Officer Candidacy School in 1959 and immediately entered flight school. Don flew B-52 bombers, and he and his comrades, "the best damned bombing crew in the Air Force," earned USAF's Fairchild Trophy.

In 1965, Don began his career with American Airlines and joined the New York Air National Guard, flying the F-100. Later, with the Wisconsin Air National Guard, Don flew the C-119, albeit with less enthusiasm.

On September 23, 1966, Don married Marilyn. Both Don and Marilyn brought children to the union: Marilyn had two sons (Jeff and Mike), and Don had two sons (twins Keith and Ken) and three daughters (Holly, Linda, and Anita). In 1970 Don and Marilyn had their daughter Deborah. In 1973, the family moved to Richardson, Texas and made it their home.

Don traveled extensively, and he loved learning new things and sharing them with others. He taught himself French, Spanish, how to sail, coach soccer, and flyfish. He shared his skills with his



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loved ones, too, as well as countless stories. Don remembered every joke he ever heard, and he was a wonderful storyteller. He had a warm smile, a contagious laugh, and he knew how to make people feel at ease.

Don flew about every airplane in American Airlines' fleet. There was no aircraft he wouldn't master. As he famously said, "Quart of whiskey and a full tank, and I can fly this sumbitch anywhere."

For many years, American Airlines exhibited immeasurably poor judgement by forcing pilots to retire at age sixty. It was a day Don dreaded. After retirement, Don engaged in serving his community. He volunteered at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas. He was one of the founders of the Robert Burns Night fundraiser for the Richardson Symphony Orchestra, and he chaired the committee every year, until passing the torch in 2023 due to his injury.

Don was preceded in death by his father Asa Walsh and his mother Doris Chapman. He is survived by too many loved ones to name: his wife Marilyn, all his children and their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, cousins, and aunts and uncles. He is also survived by numerous friends who will miss his kindness and wisdom.



Events


Don Lee Walsh

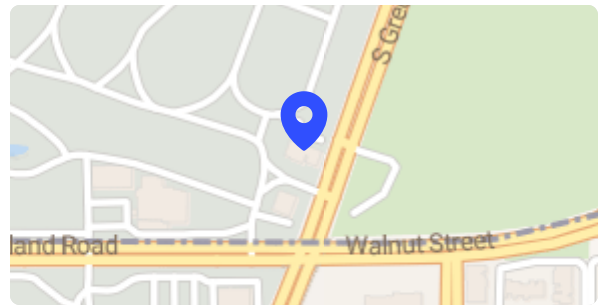
JUL 31, 1936 - FEB 16, 2023

Memorial Service


 **Saturday**, March 11, 2023

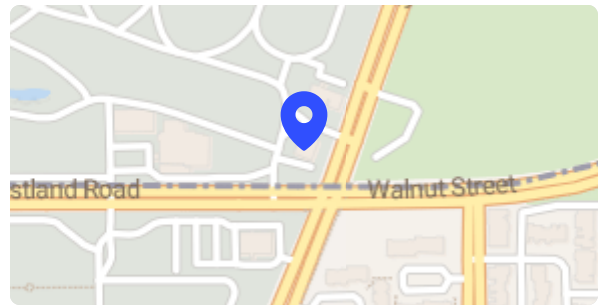
 2:00 PM CT

 **Restland FH Memorial Chapel**
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas TX 75243



Cemetery Details

 **Restland Memorial Park**
13005 Greenville Avenue, Dallas TX 75243





Tribute Wall

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Marilee Bevans shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I'm pretty sure Don flew B'52's with my dad, Warren Springer in Viet Nam. Dad passed in '71 but I remember my mom talking fondly about Don and what great friends they were. RIP to them both!

December 11 at 11:10 AM



Lovingly, From Pamela Dunn sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Walsh family.

March 10 at 3:06 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Walsh family.

March 10 at 10:20 AM



Pascal Cayet & Lavendou sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Walsh family.

March 10 at 6:42 AM



Phil & Emerson Lawrence sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Walsh family.

March 9 at 12:25 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Walsh family.

March 9 at 12:13 PM





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Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Walsh family.

March 9 at 8:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Walsh family.

March 8 at 11:01 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Walsh family.

March 8 at 10:12 AM



JJ

Joel Jeppson posted:

I was a young Flight engineer (wet behind the ears), but Don forgave all my mistakes and made the job so much fun. Had some great layovers in Buffalo with Don and Roger Lyons. He could fly the 727 like a fiddle. I am sorry to hear of Don's passing.

March 2 at 5:55 PM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Walsh family.

March 1 at 8:06 AM



JC

John Cuny posted:

Don was one fine Man! Enjoyed all our times on the Line. He will be missed and my prayers to the family. Tail Winds my friend!

February 27 at 9:57 AM



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Bill Foster posted:

I loved my time with Don, and listening to him share history with me. He was a rare soul, and a wonderful man.

February 25 at 5:38 PM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Walsh family.



February 25 at 5:38 PM



Anita Walsh Rodgers lit a candle in honor of Don.

I remember dad teaching me how to fly a single prop plane when I was a teenager. We also learned how to sail together on Lake Dallas. I remember him saying when flying, "keep your wings on the horizon". He will be so missed and he lived such a great and wonderful life.



February 25 at 8:51 AM



Joe Lanza posted:

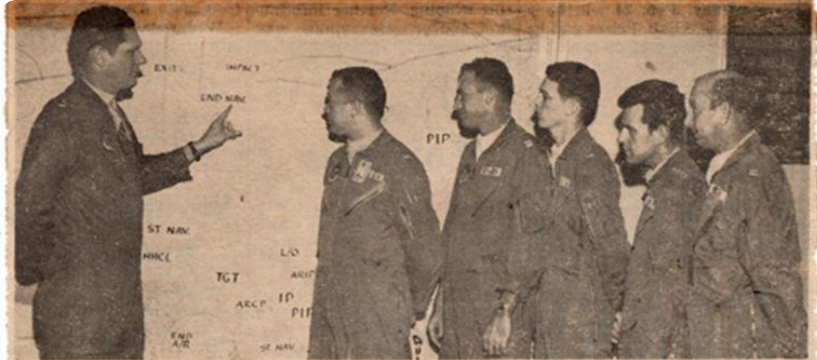
Don will be remembered as the man who reintroduced me to fly fishing by sharing his expertise and favorite streams in Arkansas. Don was a man of many passions. His love for flying was obvious in his continued pursuit of a new aerial challenge. He was proud of his heritage and enjoyed all aspects of the British Isles. Don was a gregarious man with many friends in the various endeavors he chose. Don enjoyed life and family. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to know him.

February 24 at 9:28 AM



Marilee Bevans shared a photo to the Tribute Wall album.

December 11 at 11:10 AM



BAR NONE — Members of B-52 crew R-39 go over the route map with Aircraft Commander 1st Lt. Warren L. Springer (left), in final preparation for their final training mission in Operation "Bar None," which has been in progress at Barksdale for the past five weeks. Crew members are (left to right): 1st Lt. Don L. Walsh, CP; Capt. Dale H. Seymour, RN; 1st Lt. Louis A. Green, N; TSgt. Giacchino A. Mauceri, G, and Capt. Dale Vangundy Jr., EWO. (Photo by Stone)

Test Of Wing's Capability

'Bar None' Exercise Enters Fifth Week At Barksdale

A "Bar None" exercise, conducted to realistically assess the 4238th Strategic Wing's EWO capability through evaluation of all assigned combat-ready crews and aircraft, entered its fifth week at Barksdale this week with "Outstand-

ing" results so far, according to Wing Commander, Col. Frank B. Elliott.

"Bar None," started throughout SAC in late-1961, is considered a tough test of the units primary mission capability.

The exercise, an evaluation of all combat crews of the 436th Bomb Sq. will run through next week, with approximately 12 more missions to fly.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Don by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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