



Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker

March 29, 1935 - November 9, 2021

After a lifetime of adventure, accomplishment, and service to our nation, Lieutenant-Colonel Donald R. Baker passed away peacefully on November 9, 2021 at his home in Marlton, New Jersey. Don is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Fathiyeh; his children Cindy, Darren (Angie), Scott (Kathy) and Kenyette (Bret); his grandchildren Jennifer, Alan, Derek, Nila, Roya, and Soren; siblings Larry, Alan (Teri), and JoAnn; In-laws Faezeh (Saeed), Fereshteh (Behnam), Reza (Patricia), Fahimeh (Jalil) and nieces and nephews.

Don began his life journey on March 29, 1935, in Tama County, Iowa, to Lilburn and Frances Baker. He grew up on a farm in Iowa with his three siblings JoAnn, Larry and Alan. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 1960 from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and a Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1972 from Auburn University.

After college, Don was commissioned in the US Air Force as a pilot, finishing pilot training at Craig AFB, Alabama in 1962. During his 26 years of Air Force service, Don accumulated nearly 6000 accident-free flying hours in multiple transport aircrafts, most notably the C-141. Don traveled the world through his assignments and always managed to bring back home stories of exotic foods and culture for his friends and family to enjoy.

Following post assignments over the years including Washington State, California, Philippines, Republic of Vietnam and the United Kingdom, the Air Force returned Don to flying duties with the 18th Military Airlift Squadron at McGuire AFB, New Jersey, where he met his wife Fathiyeh Pedram Jones.

Don's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm.

Following his retirement from the United States Air Force in 1987, Don moved into the home inspection business for 29 years. Throughout the years of military service and his post-military career, Don's favorite pastimes never changed -- traveling, gardening, cooking, baking, enjoying delicious foods and great company.

He was a devoted and dedicated husband to Fathiyeh. He was a loving father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. He will forever be remembered by friends and extended family as a kind and caring human being who opened his heart and home and never hesitated to help.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather at Givnish of Marlton, 398 East Main Street in Marlton, NJ, on Friday, November 19th, from 10 am to 11 am. A service will begin at 11 am. Interment will be at 1:30 pm at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veteran Memorial Cemetery, 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ.

Don's service at the funeral home and military honors were recorded, and can be viewed using this link and clicking on events: <https://my.gather.app/remember/donald-raymond-baker>

Alternatively, you can select the "Photos and Videos" Tab (on your PC), or the "Media" tab (on your phone) and click on "Services".

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

NOV 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Marlton
398 E Main St
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 452-5090
info@givnish.com

Funeral Service

NOV 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Givnish Funeral Home Marlton
398 E Main St
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 452-5090
info@givnish.com

Burial

NOV 19. 1:30 PM (ET)

NJ Veterans Cemetery
350 Provinceline Road
Wrightstown, NJ 08562

Tribute Wall



“ *Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker*

September 09, 2022 at 01:27 AM



“ *As we pass through life, we pick up pieces of those that have influenced us in positive ways. In doing so, we ensure that those that we love live on in perpetuity. We take those traits and pass them to others. Doing so ensure that those that we love never die. We see them all around and their spirit lives in others. RIP Don, Gone But Never Forgotten*



Terrel & Cynthia Jones

Terrel - November 20, 2021 at 02:03 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Services*



Givnish Funeral Home - November 20, 2021 at 10:16 AM



“ *Sending heartfelt condolences to Faithiyeh and her family on the passing of Don. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Judi Stanish - November 19, 2021 at 08:15 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.*



November 18, 2021 at 10:14 AM



“ *Carola & Kerensa purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.*



Carola & Kerensa - November 17, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ *Vida, deepest condolences to you and your whole family on your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Chris Matero

Christopher Carl Matero - November 17, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ *Denise & Chris Chisholm purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.*



Denise & Chris Chisholm - November 17, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.



November 16, 2021 at 11:38 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.



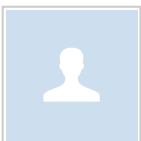
November 16, 2021 at 07:13 PM



“ *Bernard & Linda Winn purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.



Bernard & Linda Winn - November 16, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.



November 15, 2021 at 11:27 PM

NN

“ *Don Baker was an honorable man, a great husband, father, and grandfather. He will definitely be missed. Our condolences to his wonderful wife, Fathiyeh, his children, and grandchildren. May he rest in peace.*

Nadereh Niktash & family

Nadereh Niktash - November 15, 2021 at 07:38 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.*



November 15, 2021 at 03:27 PM

JM

“ *"I met Mr. Baker at an awards ceremony for his wife, Mrs. Fathiyeh Baker, and could immediately tell that he was a devoted husband and family man by the way that he carried himself.*

I send my deepest sympathies and condolences to the family, and pray that God comforts you during this season of your lives."

*James Moore
514 AMW Finance Office*



James Moore - November 15, 2021 at 12:11 PM

DJ

“ Dear Fathiyeh,
My condolences on the passing of your husband.
Diane Johnson, 514th Chaplain Office

Diane E. Johnson - November 13, 2021 at 07:45 PM

SC

“ FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF DON BAKER.
HE WAS A MAN YOU NEVER FORGET. HE WAS GENTLE , KIND,
LOVING AND A CARING. SO GLAD HE FOUND TRUE
HAPPINESS WITH HIS WIFE AND KIDS. HE LOVED TO TRAVEL,
COOK, BE A FAITHFUL FRIEND. HE ALSO WAS LOYAL AND A
GREAT PATRIOT. WILL MISS YOU SO MUCH. LV, SALLY
CURRAN

SALLY CURRAN - November 13, 2021 at 02:04 PM

SC

“ Sally Curran purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.



Sally Curran - November 13, 2021 at 01:45 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.



November 13, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.* ”



November 13, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Raymond Baker.* ”



November 13, 2021 at 05:10 AM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall* ”



Darren Baker - November 12, 2021 at 08:09 PM

DB

“ I’m Darren and Lieutenant-Colonel D.R. Baker was my father. My heart is heavy with his passing and I know I’m not the only person that feels this way. What brings solace and comfort is the wonderful support from his immediate family during his last days. I thank them profusely for keeping him comfortable.

I have many great memories with my dad but one that rings loudest is a trip he and my brother and I took while living in England. We traveled a good portion of the Southern end of Britain and visited some very cool places. Cheddar, Lands End, the oldest post office in England and many castles and cathedrals, not to mention London and a visit to the very first Hard Rock Cafe! We Americans were barbaric for eating our hamburgers with our hands! It was a trip that created some really great memories and I thank you for that dad. You loved showing me places that I had never experienced. You introduced me to New York City, we tootled around Kenyetta’s alma mater, Yale, our first skiing adventure in Garmisch-Partenkirchen Germany and more. Thank you for these and so many more wonderful memories. I love you and miss you and I will see you again ❤️

Darren Baker - November 12, 2021 at 07:46 PM

SC

DARREN LOVED YOUR MESSAGE. GLAD YOU GOT TO SEE PLACES WITH YOUR DAD. HE WAS SPECIAL AS YOU KNOW. WE DID NOT MEET BUT KNOW YOU SOUND LIKE YOUR DAD TOO. HIS FRIENDS MS CURRAN

SALLY CURRAN - November 13, 2021 at 02:09 PM

DB

Thank you Sally. Very sweet of you.

Darren Baker - November 15, 2021 at 03:08 PM