



## James Fredrick Sonnhalter

December 7, 1948 - August 13, 2023

James "Sonny" Sonnhalter, 74, of Newnan, GA, died peacefully at home on Sunday, August 13, 2023. Sonny was born in Portland, OR and grew up in Arcadia, CA. After college, he joined the United States Air Force where he was an officer and a pilot, serving his country for more than 24 years. He flew many aircraft during his career to include the prestigious Lockheed U-2 "Dragon Lady." He transitioned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves where he deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. As a civilian pilot, he flew for Pan Am Airlines and retired from Delta Airlines. In retirement he was an avid golfer, enjoyed time with his golf friends, and traveling with his wife.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy Sonnhalter and his daughter, Samantha Geiser. Sonny supported many charitable organizations and, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to any of the following charitable organizations: Wounded Warrior Project, V Foundation (Cancer Research), USO, St. Jude's, Alzheimer's Association, or The Humane Society of US.

Sonny was a private man, and his family will not hold a public service. Condolences can be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 770.253.4580.



# Cemetery Details

## **McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory**

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Tribute Wall

JM

“*Sonny was one of my closest friends when we flew the U-2 back in the 80's. I first met him at Randolph AFB when he was a T-38 instructor and then we served together at Beale AFB. I learned to always expect the unexpected from Sonny. He kept things interesting. He was a good pilot and athlete. We went on a number of TDYs together and he usually beat me badly in the many racquetball games we played. We had so many great times over the three years we spent together at Beale. We didn't keep in touch afterwards, but I have fond memories of Sonny and I'll miss him very much. My condolences to his family for their loss.*”

---

**Joe Mudd** - September 05, 2023 at 10:11 AM

JK

*Went to high school in Arcadia with Jim. You always knew he was going to be special. His father was the principal at Foothill jr high. I often wondered what his life was like. Glad to catch up. The last time I saw Jim was at a class reunion in the early 90's. Best of the Best!*

---

**jk** - September 11, 2024 at 12:21 AM