



Melvin "Doug" Hughes

April 17, 1942 - August 1, 2023

Mr. Melvin "Doug" Hughes, 81, of Sharpsburg, GA, went to be with the Lord on August 1. Heaven certainly celebrated upon his arrival and after greeting the Lord and his family, Doug most certainly began regaling everyone with stories of his time on Earth, and he's probably still talking as we read this.

He passed away at home with his boots on, just as any good Marine would have wanted. He was born in April 1942 in Byromville, GA to the late Lane Hughes and Lone Hughes. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by wife, Joan Adkins Hughes, sister Brenda Hughes, brother Ronald Hughes, step-daughter Sherry Adkins Gossett, and step-son Gary Adkins.

Doug grew up in Lilly where he spent his time playing baseball, fishing, hunting and staying out of trouble or at least placing the blame on brother Ronald. He graduated from Vienna High School in 1960. He joined the Marines immediately afterwards and served until 1964 while stationed in Japan. Doug loved to tell two stories from his time in the service. The first being that when he asked his mother what she wanted from Japan, she requested a set of china. So Doug purchased a 12-piece place setting of Noritake and paid to ship back to her in Lilly. He'd laugh and say that shipping actually cost him more than all that china did. Shawn and Tiffany were given that china for their wedding and they still laugh remembering Doug talking about that. The 2nd story he liked to tell is that he met astronaut John Glenn

not once but twice. On their 2nd meeting, Doug happened to be on the destroyer sent to pick up Glenn after his Mercury Friendship 7 capsule landed 41 miles off the targeted area in 1962. As Glenn was walking across the ship's deck, Doug was there with all the other servicemen, and John Glenn spotted him amongst the hundreds of people lined up and called out "Hey Hughey" (Doug's military nickname).

Doug's brother, Steve, has a lot of memories of their home and the days growing up on the farm in Lilly, GA. He says they enjoyed many activities together - hunting, fishing, baseball. The hunting and fishing trips always left them with MANY stories to tell later. Steve's favorite memory of Doug always goes back to when he was teaching Steve to play baseball. He would show him how to hit and catch and if he did it wrong, Steve laughs and says that "Doug kicked me in the rear until I got it right." Steve says his love for him was much more than just because they were brothers - "he was my best friend and my mentor."

After returning to Lilly when he was honorably discharged from the service, Doug met and married his first wife, Betty Gleaton in 1966, and moved to Hapeville, GA. The following year, he began his thirty-four year career as a Delta Ramp Service Agent. He was close to his "Ramp Rat" friends and was known to them as "Mush." Over the years, Doug regaled everyone with his stories of things that happened at work. His family always wondered if he actually worked because he made it sound like he was having too good of a time to have actually gotten anything productive done.

One of Doug's proudest moments was the birth of his son, Shawn Hughes, in May 1967. He was very involved in Shawn's life, and not only coached Shawn's Little League team for several years, he also taught him how to hunt, fish, drive and many other important life skills. Shawn definitely inherited his gift of gab and his sense of humor from Doug because the apple did not fall

far from the tree.

Doug divorced his 1st wife and married his late wife, Joan Adkins Hughes, in 1985, and built a house in Sharpsburg. Throughout their marriage, they enjoyed traveling and spending time with friends and family. They attended the weddings of Shawn to his wife, Tiffany in 2003, and Sherry, to her husband Jeff, in 2007.

While Doug was proud of his children, nothing made his chest swell more than talking about his grandchildren - Sydney Baker, Dylan Hughes and Ella Gossett. When Shawn and his wife brought Dylan home from Guatemala as a four-year-old, Doug was so excited to be the first one to meet him that he got Delta Buddy Passes for he and Joan so they could meet Dylan as soon as he came

though Customs at the airport. He presented Dylan with a John Deere hat which Dylan proudly wore to meet the rest of the family who were waiting at Baggage Claim. It's now seventeen years later and that hat is still one of Dylan's most treasured possessions. Doug passed on his love of all things John Deere and his love of his country to Dylan as well.

Doug got to spend a lot of time with granddaughter Ella as she was growing up. One of her fondest memories of her PawPaw was when she and her mom would go to lunch every week with him.

In later years, Doug particularly enjoyed his special friends from his beloved Crossroads Church Community group. Their gatherings were the highlight of his week and he did not let anything interfere with his plans to see them. He was particularly glad most were able to attend the surprise 80th birthday party his family threw him last year.

Doug had a long and happy life, and if it had to be summed up by one sentence, it would be "serve God, love your family and always be proud to be an American." Godspeed Doug, until we meet again.

Carry on Marine. Semper Fi. Oorah.

We will be coming together to celebrate Doug's life on Saturday August 12 at Crossroads Church, 2564 GA-154, Newnan, GA with visitation at 10:00 am and a celebration service at 11:00 am. Doug had no use for flowers, so instead, the family asks that you make memorial donations in Doug's honor to Wounded Warrior (www.support.woundedwarriorproject.com/Donate) Forgotten Paws (in honor of Doug's granddogs) (<https://www.forgottenpaws.com/donationspage.htm>) or contributions can be mailed to Crossroads Church, 3260 GA-16, Sharpsburg, GA 30277.

Please celebrate Doug's life by leaving your favorite Doug story (either about him or one he told repeatedly) at www.mckoon.com

Survivors include son Shawn (Tiffany) Hughes, and grandson Dylan of Acworth, GA, son-in-law Jeff Gossett, granddaughter Ella of Lake City, GA, granddaughter Sydney Baker, brother Steve (Saranne) Hughes of Cordele, GA, niece Katie (Sam) Purdy of Cordele, GA, niece Sindie (Mike) Bragg of Bristol, VA, nephew Russell Hughes of Rich Hill, MO, great-nieces Emma Bragg, Ansley Purdy and great-nephews Landon Bragg and Walker Purdy. Doug is also survived and celebrated by special friends John and Patty Van Horn and the rest of his beloved Crossroads Community Group.

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>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Crossroads Church Hwy 154 Campus
2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265

Funeral Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Crossroads Church Hwy 154 Campus
2564 Highway 154
Newnan, GA 30265

Tribute Wall

DK

“ From fellow members of Crossroads we wanted to send our heartfelt condolences. Reading the stories and movies of other people, I would have loved to get to know him! Such a fine man. But, it's not over yet. As the song says there will be a day!

Phillip and Deborah Kee

Deborah Kee - August 14, 2023 at 11:07 AM

SD

“ Worked with Doug at Delta. Great guy to work with. Great sense of humor.

Sam Davis - August 09, 2023 at 03:07 PM

DG

“ so sorry to hear of Doug's moving to his eternal home, worked with Doug many years good man and fun to be around. I know especially the family and close friends will miss him dearly. May GOD grant you the peace that only HE can give during this time but remember He is rejoicing with other family and friends around the THRONE our prayers and sympathies to all. David and Dianne Gilmore

David Gilmore - August 09, 2023 at 12:59 PM

NT

“ Doug and Joan were my next door neighbors for about twenty years . Doug was as good a man as I ever had as a friend . Doug lived his life following the Marine Corps motto - he was faithful to his family , his friends , his Church and was always a Marine's Marine . Doug was always supportive of our family . He and Joan attended our kid ' s graduations and marriages and mine and Patsy's birthdays and anniversary's . We joined with them for many of their happiest occasions . We welcomed the arrival of Shawn's son Dylan - I remember that John Deere cap - We celebrated with Doug and Joan when Ella was born. Doug was a proud Grandpa to all his grandchildren . That included Gary's daughter Sydney who was the oldest I believe. My memory fails me sometimes . Doug suffered a great deal of loss in his later years. First his Mother , then Gary and then precious Joan after a long illness . The last time I spoke with Doug was the night before he went to be with Jeff and Ella as they made the hard decision to remove life support from Sherry after she had suffered a stroke . Doug was faithful to the end , just as he lived his life . Rest in Peace old friend. Godspeed .

Neal Towery - August 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM

JG

“ That was Doug’s favorite jacket. I bought that jacket at a Braves game I was at. It was at Turner Field 20 years ago and the game was sold out. I was seated in the last row of the upper deck and it was very windy. I was freezing. I went down to one of the gift shops and bought that red Braves jacket. It didn’t really look like me but it was the only jacket they had. So I spent my \$100 on it so I could finish watching the game. After the game the jacket just hung in my closet. I then met Sherry and of course Doug and Joan. I found out how much Doug loved the Braves. I told him the next time I came down I would have something for him. I have it to him and from that point on if it was a little chilly or if he was coming to see Sherry or Ella at our house he would have that jacket on.

Jeff Gossett - August 08, 2023 at 08:12 PM

CC

“ Doug will be greatly missed. He left me with a memory of unconditional love. Joan and Doug were two precious people to me and they loved there family and there grandchildren very much.

Cheryl Baker Cooley - August 05, 2023 at 05:22 PM

DH

“ Deborah And Joedy Hobby lit a candle in memory of Melvin "Doug" Hughes



Deborah and Joedy Hobby - August 05, 2023 at 03:24 PM

PS

“ I was in the Navy and never served aboard a ship... so.. Doug spent more time on a ship than I did....I kid him a lot about the Marines is a department of the Navy.. that got him... Doug was short on Statue, but 6 foot 5 inches a man....he loved his country, Family and his God. It was an honor to call him my Friend.....We served about the time in the Military.....His phone ring was the Marine anthem,, mind was Anchors aweigh, Navy.. when we played cards, I 'd sneak and dial his number, when it when off, I'd stand and Salute.....same for him back to me.....My Friend, you will be missed...Semper fi.. and carry on.....Salute.

paul steele - August 05, 2023 at 02:13 PM

JS

Really wonderful for those of us relatives who didn't get to see him as much adults as children. Going to Lily to see cousin Doug, his siblings, parents and our grandmother Linnie Lou was always a joy.
Julia Lou (Judy) Hughes Shipes

Judy Shipes - August 05, 2023 at 03:37 PM

CP

Such a nice tribute to Douglas. We grew up as neighbors in Lilly. Haven't seen him in years but was happy to be his friend on facebook. Love and sympathy to the Hughes family.

carol pearce - August 05, 2023 at 05:24 PM

J(

A VIETNAM BROTHER ! WELCOME HOME MY BROTHER AND MAY YOU REST IN PEACE ! GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

JIM BURCHELL (MAINTENANCE) - August 09, 2023 at 11:16 AM

WF

Doug was my friend for many years i loved working with him and ragging our special"marine" R.I.P. to and old and ever faithful friend" Semper Fi"

Wayne Frazier - August 12, 2023 at 02:00 PM