



## Donald Crawford Latham

December 22, 1932 - July 15, 2021

Donald Crawford Latham passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of July 15, 2021. Don was born in Sayre, Pennsylvania on December 22, 1932 to the late Dayton & Helen Latham. After graduating from Yokohama AHS in Japan he attended The Citadel, graduating with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1955. Don was on active duty in the Air Force from 1957-1959 during which time he graduated from the University of Arizona with his M.S. in Electrical Engineering and would later go on to earn his E.E. in 1965.

Don held several different aerospace engineering positions in his lifetime, the longest of which was at Lockheed Martin. He was Deputy Undersecretary of Defense and later went on to become Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3I) in the Department of Defense during the Reagan administration in the 1980's. Don received numerous awards for his work in the defense industry over his career. In 1987 he was presented with three honors: the Gold Medal for Engineering from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, the Distinguished Civilian Service Award from the Department of the Army and the Medal for Distinguished Public Service from the Department of Defense. Don was a presidential appointee to the Defense Science Board, serving from 1996-2009. He also co-authored the book "Strategy for Survival" and authored the book "Transistors and Integrated Circuits". Don was an avid reader and lifelong learner but was often happiest out mowing his yard.

He is survived by his loving wife, Marla, of 34 years, three children, Heather

Sheffer (Darrin), Sherrie Hill (Herb) and Gary Latham (Ruby), and five grandchildren: William, Luci, Finn, Soren & Hadley. He is also survived by his brother Phillip Latham and sister Barbara Latham as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers Robert and William Latham. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department at 11310 Coles Drive Manassas, VA 20112 or to the Citadel Foundation at 171 Moultrie Street Charleston, SC 29409 or online at [foundation.citadel.edu](http://foundation.citadel.edu). Funeral services are private.

# Tribute Wall

FW

“ Sorry to hear of Don Latham's passing. When Don left Martin Marietta (Martin was not yet Lockheed Martin then), he made me an offer to work for him in the Cherry Hill, NJ area in RCA's Government Systems' Advanced Technology Labs. This was a real opportunity for me and opened doors for career advancement. Don was the most dynamic person I ever met. He would turn the empty airliner seats common in the 1970's into a temporary in-flight office and read & write things during the entire flight. He could instantly write compelling text on many topics for major government proposals. Don had a sparkle about him that always gained people's attention and I am glad to have known him. - Frank Warren

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**Francis B Warren** - February 12, 2025 at 09:59 AM

RW

“ I was saddened to learn of Donald's recent passing but I had lost track of him in recent years. I was a technical writer and editor at Martin Marietta and worked on most of his reports, proposals and advisories concerning command, communication, and control (C3) applications. Most people don't know and appreciate what valuable insight and technical knowledge he contributed to advancing technologies at all levels of life. America owes him greatly. Gone but not forgotten!. God Bless!

*Robert C. Waterbury*

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**Robert Waterbury** - February 28, 2023 at 10:37 AM

LG

“ I am saddened to hear that Don has passed and blessed to have known him. He sincerely appreciated people in his life and absolutely loved his family. I can say that I've been to his home every year for the past 25 years and perhaps more. A pleasure to have known him, a humble man, shared good thoughts of family and a great handshake upon a goodbye. My last visit was no handshake, not needed, as I saw the the appreciation and a twinkle in his eye. God bless Don and his family.

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**Lee Gupton** - July 20, 2021 at 11:14 PM

MA

“ Marla and family I am so sorry to hear of Dons passing I really enjoyed talking with Don and enjoyed taking care of the backup generator for the house since 1994 and I would say that every time I was there he would be mowing grass he would ride the tractor down to the barn to chat with me and the I would do my job and he would continue mowing I can honestly say that I will Miss him and we have lost another great Man

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**Mark Avey** - July 20, 2021 at 09:28 PM

TP

“ I was saddened to hear that Don has passed away. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the Latham family.

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**Ted Petoskey** - July 19, 2021 at 09:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Crawford Latham.



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July 18, 2021 at 12:51 PM

PB

“ *Marla an Heather my deepest condolences to you and the family. God bless you.*

Page Boone - July 18, 2021 at 12:47 PM

PB

*Marla and Heather my deepest condolences to you and the family. God bless you.*

Page Boone - July 18, 2021 at 12:48 PM

CS

*Dearest Marla and Heather, Sherrie and Gary. Don was a noteworthy man and it was a privilege to have had him in our lives.*

Cheri Schaefer - July 18, 2021 at 12:59 PM

CS

*Marla, Heather, Sherrie and Gary, The Honorable Donorable was a man of great note. Ed and I were privileged to have had Don in our lives. My heart hurts for you all.*

Cheri Schaefer - July 18, 2021 at 01:03 PM

LW

*Marla and Heather, my deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband and father. May God comfort and keep you at this difficult time.*

Liz Washington - July 19, 2021 at 07:02 AM

LN

“ *Marla & Family, Sending my deepest sympathy and praying GOD will give you HIS Peace and Comfort and this sad time.*

lola nickens - July 18, 2021 at 07:00 AM

MA

“ Marla, so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Mary Konfala

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Mary - July 17, 2021 at 08:20 PM

TD

“ Marla and Heather,

Tom and I cannot express how we feel when a co-worker, friend, or family member suffers the loss of a loved one. Still, we wish to convey our desire, however inadequate, to offer you and your family our deepest sympathy and prayers during this difficult time.

Tom and Mary Dickins

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Tom and Mary Dickins - July 17, 2021 at 03:08 PM

EL

“ Marla, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I've missed seeing you and your husband over the past year. You will definitely be in my prayers Edie Lewis

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Edith Lewos - July 16, 2021 at 04:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Crawford Latham.



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July 16, 2021 at 10:24 AM

MG

“ *Marla and family: Our deepest sympathy, you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Maury and Vera Gerson** - July 16, 2021 at 09:31 AM

LH

“ *Marla and Heather,  
We were saddened to hear of Don's passing and send you all our deepest sympathy. His was certainly a life well lived and you two enriched it; may you find comfort in that. Keeping you in our prayers  
Linda and Dean Haledjian*

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**Linda and Dean Haledjian** - July 16, 2021 at 07:09 AM

BJ

*Marla and Family,  
Marie and I send our warmest best wishes and deepest sympathies. Please know that you are in our hearts in this most difficult time. Our love to all,  
Marie and Bob Jefferson.*

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**Bob Jefferson** - July 16, 2021 at 12:00 PM

EA

“ *To Marla and Heather so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Leon and Evelyn Alexander.*

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**Evelyn Alexander** - July 15, 2021 at 07:57 PM