



## Melvin Don Blanton Jr.

February 7, 2022

Melvin Don Blanton, Jr., 77, of Woodstock, VA, passed away at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital on February 7, 2022. A native of Gaffney, SC and a longtime resident of Lake Ridge, VA, he was the son of the late Melvin Don Blanton Sr. and the late Olivette Hawkins Blanton. He is also predeceased by his sister, Rebecca Elaine Blanton Whitaker. Don, as he preferred to be called, was born in Gaffney, SC in 1944. He is a 1963 graduate of Gaffney High School, and went on to earn a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University in 1967. He spent his career with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC. He married Merle Howe in 1977 and together they welcomed their son, Don Alan Blanton the following year. He retired in 2000, and the family moved to Woodstock, VA. Don was a proud husband, father, and grandpa, and considered these his greatest achievements in life. He was passionate about wildlife and the outdoors, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping from an early age. He was well-known for his intelligence, curiosity, and sense of humor. Most of all, he was a compassionate man who cared deeply for his family and his community. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Merle Ann Blanton; his son, Don Alan Blanton; his grandchildren, Avery, Chase, and Eliza; four nieces and three nephews. Per his wishes, there will be a small, private graveside service. In lieu of flowers, and in celebration of his life, please consider making a donation to the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging ([ShenandoahAAA.org](http://ShenandoahAAA.org)), or the charity of your choice. The family would like to extend their heartfelt

gratitude to the staff of Consulate Health Care of Woodstock and Shenandoah Memorial Hospital. Cemetery Details Sunset View Memorial Gardens 2677 Fravel Road Woodstock, VA 22664

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Don was a dear friend of mine. I worked with him at the F.E.R.C. for the 22 years before he retired. Don was the most dedicated of public servants. He was loved and respected by all of the many colleagues who knew him as a friend. I am deeply sorry that we lost contact with Don after he retired, and I think I speak for many on that. He is sorely missed. My deepest sympathy to Merle, son Don and family. Jon Siems

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**Jon Siems** - February 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing! I'm sure everyone will miss his sweet, cute stories! Prayers and blessings to the family❤️

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**Carolyn Foyle** - February 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ He was a very intelligent man. He did enjoy a good joke. He was very proud of his family. He worked hard for the government and had a good career. We will miss him.

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**John Howe** - February 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM