



## Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr.

June 27, 1947 - December 10, 2025

Surrounded by family and love, Blanding DeSaussure Roberts, Jr. took his final bow on December 10, 2025, leaving behind a lifetime of love, laughter, and endless memories. Born June 27, 1947, in Augusta, Georgia, Blanding grew up in Atlanta, where he marched proudly with his saxophone at Decatur High School before earning his bachelor's degree at North Georgia College. It was there he met the love of his life, Melinda Carolyn Baker, his soulmate of 52 years. Together they built a marriage full of loyalty and devotion until her passing in 2020. Upon graduation, Blanding was commissioned into the United States Army and served with distinction as a Captain in Vietnam with the 701st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Infantry Division. He earned an Army Commendation Medal and, more importantly, annual bragging rights each December..."Go Army, Beat Navy"! After his honorable discharge in 1974, he returned to Atlanta and joined his father and uncles at Roberts Engineering Corporation, where he spent five decades working alongside family to uphold the company's reputation for integrity and excellence. But Blanding's greatest joy was his family. Summers were filled with coaching his sons on the football and baseball fields at Redan Park, orchestrating all-star caravans across Georgia, and perfecting his sideline whistle. When the games were over, Tybee Island called, where he crowned himself "Master of the Body Surf," devoured shrimp and crab with gusto, and declared every sunset to be the best one yet. He was a man of simple pleasures: a cold beer, a nice cigar, 2x Titos on the rocks, gumdrops, licorice, old westerns, and even the occasional

Hallmark movie (though he'd never admit how much he cried at the endings). He loved visiting with friends, reading John Clancey novels, attending church, sharing fellowship, and bragging endlessly about his grandchildren. His infectious smile could light up a room faster than any HVAC system he ever worked on, and his warmth made knowing him a privilege and loving him effortless. Blanding is preceded in death by his beloved wife Melinda, his son Joseph, his parents Blanding and Ann Roberts, and his brother Thom Roberts. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, David and Amy Roberts; grandchildren Taylor and Cole Roberts; brother Sam Roberts; and sister Eleanor Honeycutt. The Roberts family extends heartfelt gratitude to Kristen Smith, who for the past five years provided not only exceptional care but also a loving presence, comfort, and peace of mind. Blanding's legacy is one of joy, laughter, and love...a beacon of light that will continue to shine in the hearts of all who knew him. A service will be held at St. Edward's Episcopal Church, 737 Moon Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 (770-963-6128) on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 3:00 pm. The family will receive friends from 2:00 pm until the time of service. A reception will follow at Dantes Pizzeria & Trattoria, 2135 Loganville Hwy, Grayson, GA 30017. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations can be made to <https://stedwardsonline.org/wp/give/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 17. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St Edward's Episcopal Church  
737 Moon Rd  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
(770) 963-6128

## Memorial Service

JAN 17. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Edward's Episcopal Church  
737 Moon Road  
Lawrenceville, Ga

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ Blanding and I were best of friends in early 60's at Decatur High School. I joined the Band in 8th. grade and was seated next to Blanding in the Saxaphone section. He took me under his wing and helped me with instrument fingering and music reading. He knew right away I was a total rookie. He also thought me how to water ski at their family lake cabin on Lake Lanier ! Great times together, I am Jim Gresham class of 1964.

Jim Gresham - February 03 at 05:37 PM

DR

Thanks for sharing Jim!

David Roberts - February 07 at 06:08 AM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Captain Roberts for over fifty years. He always had his priorities in the right order: Go, family and country. I always enjoyed talking and drinking with him, he enjoyed talking and I enjoyed listening. I have/had great respect for Blanding and his long time friend Kip and we, and my wife Olivia, had many wonderful times together! I loved Blanding and miss him everyday! David, God bless you and your family, and thank you and Amy for being great parents! 🙏

Willie Keel - January 17 at 05:28 PM

CR

“ Carol N Roberts purchased the Peaceful White Lies Basket for the family of Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr..



Carol N Roberts - January 14 at 10:16 AM

SB

“ Steven Mullins and Amelia Brown purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr..



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Steven Mullins and Amelia Brown - January 12 at 12:07 PM

SB

“ Steven Mullins and Amelia Brown planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr..

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Steven Mullins and Amelia Brown - January 12 at 12:07 PM

LB

“ Lisa Brownlee lit a candle in memory of Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr.



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Lisa Brownlee - January 08 at 10:29 PM

SV

“ I don't remember Melinda ever dating or being interested in boys when we were teens; she was always so focused on her education. But the time I rode with her Mom to North Georgia to pick her up for the weekend I learned that something had definitely changed. Melinda kept trying to point this guy on the parade field out to me. I could not pick him out of the cluster of 20 guys but she definitely could! Blanding and Melinda were made for each other and built a long, happy, and devoted life together. I have no doubt that they are together again.

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Sallie Vick - January 06 at 10:45 AM

BA

*Blanding was a good man who loved his family and friends. He will be missed by everyone who knew him in life. May he rest in peace in God's loving embrace forever.*

**Betsy Azzato** - January 13 at 06:19 PM

DR

“*Fun fact about dad was that he always made me check in whenever I left his house to drive home. It didn't matter if I was 18 or 48, he was always a concerned parent. Most of the time, he would call before we even got home.*

**David Roberts** - January 05 at 02:37 PM

SR

*He was a Teddy Bear!!!*

**Sam Roberts** - January 15 at 04:00 PM

SR

*Dang, B.*

*Love You!!!*

**Sam Roberts** - January 15 at 04:04 PM

AD

“*Mister Robert's' compassion and understanding was something I was privileged to experience at a time in my life when things were extremely hard. He and his family helped in various ways as I was getting back on my feet from extreme poverty and I am grateful to have known him, as well as Melinda and Joseph. Cheers to a life well lived. We love you, Mr. Roberts.*



**Aaron Devoe** - January 05 at 09:54 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of *Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr.*



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January 04 at 06:20 PM



“ *Kyle Dutton* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Blanding DeSaussure Roberts Jr.*

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**Kyle Dutton** - January 04 at 06:20 PM