



Donald D. Mack

May 10, 1930 - June 25, 2025

Donald Dean Mack, 95, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in Libertyville, Illinois, surrounded by the love of his family. A devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, Don lived a full and extraordinary life built on service, craftsmanship, and deep love for the people around him.

Born in Chicago and raised in Waukegan, Don had a quiet confidence from the beginning. At just seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy — the first step in a lifetime of mechanical mastery and service to others. As an aircraft mechanic stationed in Guam and later at the Naval Air Station in Pawtuxet River, Rhode Island, he built a reputation for precision and integrity. It was in Pawtuxet where Don became crew chief for none other than test pilot and future American astronaut Alan Shepard — a role that spoke volumes about his talent and trustworthiness.

After nine years in the Navy, Don transitioned from military service to civilian aviation, earning his federal license in jet aircraft maintenance at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. He spent the next 37 years working as an Airframe and Power Plant Mechanic for United Airlines. He was the guy you wanted working on your plane — meticulous, methodical, and always cool-headed, whether elbow-deep in a jet engine or mentoring a new tech fresh on the job.

Don retired in 1997 and settled in Bartlett, Illinois, where he enjoyed a slower pace of life and deeper connections with family and neighbors. Eventually, he moved into the family home in Libertyville, where he spent his final years on Woodland Road — the heart of his world in later life. He was a staple of the neighborhood: generous with his time, quick with a story, and known for the way he could make you feel like an old friend after five minutes on the porch. Winters were spent in North Redington Beach, Florida, at the Marwick, where his circle of friends and fans only grew.

He is survived by his sons, Dean (Barbara) Mack and Alan (Patricia) Mack; his seven grandchildren, Sami (Nick) Mack-Formica, Kaila (Greg) Mack-Larson, Jeffrey (Dr. Morgan Pooler) Mack, Kinsey (Jordan) Mack, Riley (Jacob) Mack-Cunningham, Dr. Gage Winters, and Makenzie Winters; and his two great-grandchildren, Ripley Formica and Macklin Larson. Each of them carries a piece of his strength, his wit, and his love forward.

To those who knew him, Don was more than a father or friend — he was a living example of humility, and loyalty. He loved a good story, a quiet beach, a wrench in his hand, and a family gathering full of belly laughs. His legacy is written not just in the history books or airline logbooks, but in the lives he helped shape and the people he loved fiercely.

Private services will be held for the family. Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home. For information, call (847) 362-3009 or share a memory at ww.w.burnettdane.com. A celebration of Don's life will be held at a later date — and you can be sure there will be stories, laughter, and at least one toast in his honor.

Tribute Wall

LS

“ So many memories & giggles due to Papa Mack! Growing up in a neighborhood filled with that cheeky smile & sense of humor was a gift. We are heartbroken to hear of Don's passing, but all the better for having him in our lives. Big hugs to Dean, Alan & the family. We love you. Lynn Streit & family

Lynn Streit - July 24, 2025 at 02:37 PM

PA

“ Dean and Alan, our condolences to you and your families. I was sorry to hear of your dad's passing. The thing I remember most was his smile. I remember what a great neighbor he was to the Madole family and Woodland Road neighborhood. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. Pennye and Al Arana

Pennye Arana - July 06, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Dean & Alan, We are soooo sorry. Hundreds of thousands of memories to cherish, especially the Mack-Madole picnics. What good times. Condolences to you and your families. Linda & Roger

Linda Busch - June 28, 2025 at 05:09 PM

PC

“ We started spending Winters in Florida in 2017. We found this little condo in North Redington Beach at the Marwick Building. We were upstairs in unit#10. Next door to us in unit#9 was this tall white haired gentleman who drove this hot Corvette from Illinois named Don Mack. We spent 4 years at Marwick and 4 years in Indian Shores. Over those 8 years, our friendship with Don blossomed and our love for him continued to grow and grow and grow. Don was probably the most interesting man we had ever met. Never short on a story and always had a joke and a smile to share. Oh so many memories. The lunches at Seabreeze. The yard parties at Marwick. The sunsets and cocktails on the patio. The Family that later became known as the Marwickians. Don, Joe & Barb, John & Toni, Bill & Cathy, Ed & Brenda, Marty & Margo, Dewayne & Deb, Margaret, and Don II. We thank the Lord for creating a man the character of Don Mack. We are truly blessed to have known him and call him our friend. Our hearts go out to the Family.
Kevin & Patty Carey
Kokomo, IN.

Patty Carey - June 28, 2025 at 11:43 AM

BL

“ I can only say his obituary pretty much described Don. I can only say I was glad to have shared time with him at United. My condolences to Kathy and his family.

Bud Lowe - June 28, 2025 at 11:06 AM

MC

All the wonderful posts certainly say it all about this fine man and friend! So long, Don; we'll see each other (all of us) in the wherever 🙏

margaret caruso-ferraro - June 29, 2025 at 03:22 PM

KH

“ Dean and Alan, we are so sad to hear about the passing of your Dad. As you know he was best friends with my father-in-law, Maurice Hall, and was a dear friend to my Mom-in-law, Carol Hall, for many years. He was always fun to be around and had great stories about the trouble he and Morry would get into when they were young! He was so sweet to visit my mom-in-law several times during the last days of her life... she really enjoyed his visits. What a life he had... he was loved and will be missed.
Karen and Dale Hall and family

Karen Hall - June 27, 2025 at 11:19 PM

PF

“ Don, was one of those people that before you met him you knew he was a special person. His attitude made him one of those guys you wanted to get to know and be friends with! He will be missed!!! Rest in peace my friend!

Patrick M. Finn - June 27, 2025 at 06:24 PM

DH

“ Jan Gawenda ,Deanna Hoppel ,harry good ,Dave Stoves ,Dean Hackenberg,

dick hoppel - June 27, 2025 at 05:59 PM

DH

“ Jan, Harry God , Dave Stoves , Deanna Hoppel

dick hoppel - June 27, 2025 at 05:47 PM

DG

“ Very funny guy

Dave Gucwa - June 27, 2025 at 04:20 PM