



## William "Dale" Lakeman

June 8, 1951 - March 5, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of William Dale Lakeman.

Dale at the age of 73 passed away comfortably at Tanner Hospital in Carrollton, GA on March 5th, 2025.

Dale was born on June 8th, 1951 in Birmingham, AL. Dale pursued his education at Appalachian State University before proudly serving four years in the United States Air Force. Sgt Lakeman was part of the 3413th Instructor Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. As an instructor, he was the first to transition the Air Force from Early Distance Warning (DEW) to Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) which was the nations first air defense computerized system. SAGE is now a part of the Smithsonian which Dale always joked about how he made history. His dedication and discipline carried over into his professional life, where he built a successful career as a fueling supervisor with Delta Air Lines in Atlanta, GA before retiring.

Beyond his work Dale was known for his sharp sense of humor and larger than life personality. A true comedian and prankster at heart, he had a knack for making people laugh with his jokes and playful antics. He was strong willed and determined, but also deeply sensitive and loving beneath his tough exterior. His leadership and caring nature left a lasting impact on everyone

who knew him. His patriotism unwavering. He was proud to be an American, and lived by Frank Sinatra's words, "I did it my way."

Dale had a deep love for music and DJ, sharing his passion with those around him so much so that he was known to impersonate Elvis Presley for special occasions. He also loved capturing his family's precious memories through home video and in his early years loved all things Nascar, favorite driver being Dale Earnhart. For 27 years he embraced lake life in Wedowee, AL, where he found peace and happiness boating on the water with his family and friends (also his beloved granddogs). All cherished moments that reflected his devotion to those he loved most.

Above all else Dale's greatest joy was his family; they were the reason he worked so hard and loved so fully.

Dale is survived by beloved wife Cathie Williams Lakeman, sons Jeremy Lakeman (Jessica), Chris Lakeman, daughter Amanda Lakeman, grandchildren Jillian and Jackson Lakeman, brothers John Lakeman, Tom Lakeman (Becky) and Mike Lakeman (Marie). He was preceded in death by his parents Bill and Rose Lakeman of Haleyville, AL.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

The service will include a military presentation of the flag in honor of Dale's service to his country. In lieu of flowers please donate/support your local Veterans Organization in Memory of Dale Lakeman.

Dale often said, "You're gonna miss me when I'm gone" and by god he was right. Dale's legacy of laughter and love will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



# Tribute Wall

SD

“*Cathie, I am so sorry for your loss. The times that I worked with you and Dale were priceless. We had so many laughs when I worked with Dale in the bagroom. It was so much fun staying in touch with Dale on Facebook. Again, my sincere condolences to you and your family.*

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**Steve Dent** - March 09, 2025 at 10:55 PM



“*We only knew Dale for about the past 10 years at Lake Wedowee. He definitely was a kind individual and easy to talk with. I fondly called him Caveman after the man cave he had at Lakeside. He will surely be missed! Prayers for Cathie and family for God's peace and understanding of His eternal plan. ❤️🙏*  
*Bobby and Patti Reeder*

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**Bobby Reeder** - March 07, 2025 at 09:31 PM

RM

“*Dale was a huge part of my life when I was a teen when we lived in The campground. He always let me drive “my blue truck” around lakeside and supported my loud trumpet playing when I had practice. We were one big family in those days and I will always remember our bonfire nights and karaoke on the pavilion.*

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**Randi Mcdaniel** - March 07, 2025 at 09:07 PM

RI

“ RIP Mr. Lakeman. You will be missed by many. Was a good man.



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**Rick** - March 07, 2025 at 07:49 PM

BL

“ Oh Cathie !  
I'm loss for word !  
I am so sorry, as you remember Dale and I lived on Sharron Dr. many years ago, he was a great friend and I always joked with him about how he got you to marry him 😊.  
He was quite a guy and will truly be missed !

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**Barry lovett** - March 07, 2025 at 04:25 PM

RH

“ Dale and I worked together in Cabin Service and on the ramp at Delta. Another employee mistakenly identified him as "Earl" one day, as Dale and I were talking together. From that time on, whenever he saw me, he'd say "Hi, Earl!". He was one of my FAVORITE Delta people and Cathie, you were too. Your family has my deepest sympathy and my gratitude for having known you both. PEACE! Rick Helms, Tyrone, GA

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**Rick Helms** - March 07, 2025 at 01:21 PM

KC

Cathie, so sorry to hear about Dale. Keeping you in my heart. Love always, Kay

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**Kay Crenshaw** - March 07, 2025 at 05:38 PM

EK

*Really loved Dale. He was one of a kind. His spirit was infectious. My late mother and Dale shared a June 8 birthday. At my mother's funeral all that was played was Elvis. All my love to your family for your loss. He will always be honored and missed. Love you all. Ernie ,  
Marathon,FI*

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**Ernest Kercher** - March 08, 2025 at 10:52 AM

MH

*Dale was an incredibly special friend to everyone he met and I am so blessed to have known him. I got to know Dale about 30 years ago when our kids were in middle and high schools. We had a lot in common, including time spent in the Air Force and our Delta Air Lines careers, and now we were flipping burgers together as band-student parents during Friday-night football games. The fish dinners and cocktails on Dale and Cathie's Lakeside porch were memories made of gold for me. Dale was a friend that you never doubted for anything. His friends were sacred to him, and to his family as well. Thank you Dale.*

*Maurice Hardwick*

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**Maurice Hardwick** - March 12, 2025 at 07:56 AM