



## Donald J. Hammel

June 29, 1937 - March 30, 2024

With a heavy heart, we mark the end of an incredible life. Donald Joseph Hammel entered eternal rest on Saturday, March 30th, 2024. Donald (“Don”, “Pap”) was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, uncle, grandfather, friend, and business leader. A hard worker all of his life, he was inspired by a strong work ethic and never stopped moving. A native Pittsburgher, he was born on June 29th, 1937, the son of Charles L. Hammel and Marie A. Grimm. He attended and graduated from St. Francis de Sales in McKees Rocks, PA, in 1956. He began working at the age of 12 for the family business, Hammel’s Express, started by his father in 1919 with a horse and buggy. He went on to own Laurel Mountain Express Co. of Latrobe, PA, in 1959.

With deregulation in the 80s, Don moved on to founding PJAX Freight Systems in Gibsonia, PA, with the support and hard work of his wife and children for twenty five years. The family that he came from and the family that he left behind were devoted to trucking and transportation. From humble beginnings, PJAX was sold in 2006 with over 2000 employees and operating in 10 states.

In retirement, Don relocated to Jupiter, Florida, and spent the rest of his happy years in the community. A practicing Catholic all of his life, Don was a member of St. Bernard Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA, Saints John and Paul Church in Wexford, PA, as well as St. Jude Church in Tequesta, FL, and St. Christopher

Church in Hobe Sound, FL, and raised his family in faith. Don was an avid golfer his entire life, and he played almost every day until the last year of his life and was a member of Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh as well as Hobe Sound Golf Club in Florida for the past 28 years. Don was a voracious reader, quick wit, card shark, and lover of Frank Sinatra, the Steelers, Penguins, fine wines, and playing gin and golf with friends.

He was the last Hammel of his generation, predeceased in death by his father and mother, his siblings, Charles L. Hammel Jr., James Timothy Hammel, Robert Hammel, Mary Anne Kandrack, and Marlene Anderson, as well as nephew Albert Kandrack. He is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years, Joan E. Belsterling Hammel, their five children, Donald Craig Hammel (Jeanne), Lorri Ann Hammel DeAngelis (Matthew), James Timothy Hammel (Judy), Jeffrey Allen Hammel (Jodi) and Douglas Stephen Hammel (Mignonne), their fourteen grandchildren, Kristin Victoria Hammel Begley (Daniel John), Kaitlyn Elizabeth Hammel Ramos (Cristian), U.S. Army Specialist Alexander James Hammel, Gabrielle Marie Hammel Teed (Brian), Shannon Kathryn Hammel, Elizabeth Brooks Hammel, Michael Donald-Charles DeAngelis, Emily Anne Hammel, Donald Cameron Hammel, Brianna MaryAnn Hammel, Lynn Mary Hammel, Matthew Michael DeAngelis, Eleanore Reese Hammel, Charlotte Johanna Hammel, their three great-grandchildren Makayla Ryann Begley, Alexandra Rae Begley, and George Jeffrey Teed; his many nieces and nephews as well as their children and grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Mass of Christian Burial, which will be celebrated at St. Jude Catholic Church, 204 N US-1, Tequesta, FL 33469, on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 11:00 am. The Mass will be livestreamed for friends and family who are unable to attend. Please click the link below 5 minutes prior to the Mass beginning.

<https://stjudecatholicchurch.net/live-stream/>

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Don's name to St. Jude Catholic Church (204 N US-1, PO Box 3726, Tequesta, FL 33469) and St. Christopher Catholic Church (12001 SE Federal Hwy, Hobe Sound, FL 33455).

For online condolences, please visit [www.taylorandmodeen.com](http://www.taylorandmodeen.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Our Lady Queen of Peace

10941 Southern Blvd.  
Royal Palm Beach, FL

# Previous Events

## Livestream of Funeral Service

APR 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Jude Catholic Church  
204 US Hwy. #1  
Tequesta, FL 33469

## Mass of Christian Burial

APR 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Jude Catholic Church  
204 US Hwy. #1  
Tequesta, FL 33469

## Burial

APR 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady Queen of Peace  
10941 Southern Blvd.  
Royal Palm Beach, FL



# Tribute Wall

JH

“ I have been lucky to have met Mr. Hammel through working with his son, Don, over the past 14 years. I will miss our little phone chats and his quick wit. Deepest sympathy to the entire Hammel family.

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**Jessica Hensel** - April 05, 2024 at 09:09 AM

DH

“ I have been blessed to have called Don one of my best friends over the last 30 years. Florida will never be the same without him. I miss him dearly.  
God bless

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**Danny Hellmann** - April 04, 2024 at 11:17 AM

DN

“ I met Don at the gym at MVC when he first moved in . . I was shocked to find out he was a fellow “Pittsburgher” . . . he told me his life story and he stole my heart. Then I met his wife and family and I fell in love with them.

My wish is that he will meet my dad in heaven because I know they will be friends. . they are 2 of the sweetest men I've ever known. 🙏  
Rest in peace 💕💕

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**Diane Nachtwey** - April 03, 2024 at 08:33 PM

MM

“ On behalf of the Staff & Management of Hobe Sound Golf Club, we express our sincere condolences to the entire Hammel Family. We are privileged to have known Mr. Hammel and to have shared so many good times at HSGC. A true gentleman who will never be forgotten! God Bless Donald Hammel.

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**Michele Murphy** - April 03, 2024 at 03:12 PM

PM

*A kinder, more pleasant man never walked the planet.*

*Paul Morrison-----former barkeep at Chartiers Country Club*

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**Paul Morrison** - April 06, 2024 at 09:53 PM

SA

*I knew him as Uncle Donnie, although life situations drove the family into different directions he was always kind and friendly. I would have liked to have known him better as an adult. My sympathies to the family.*

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**Sandra Anderson** - April 09, 2024 at 09:07 AM

MS

*To the entire Hammel family,  
I just found out about Mr. H's passing. My deepest condolences to everyone during this difficult time. It was an honor to work for the Hammel family, whom I was introduced to by Jeanne Brooks in 1991. Mr. H. was a family man, wise, hardworking, and charismatic. I will always remember you.  
God Bless you and your family. We'll meet again one day... just not yet.  
Mario Sciulli, Pittsburgh, PA*

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**MARIO C SCIULLI** - April 17, 2024 at 10:15 AM