



Ronald James Milkas

April 1, 1965 - December 28, 2025

Ronald Milkas touched the hearts of countless people through his work as a teacher, coach, deacon with the Diocese of Savannah, foster and adoptive parent, devoted husband, and exceptional father.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Ronald graduated from St. Joseph Collegiate Institute before attending Iowa State University, where he met his bride, Margaret Milkas. They married in 1987, beginning a partnership that would span decades. In 1988, he began working for Conrail/CSX as a chemist. His first daughter was born in 1989, followed by a second in 1991. In 1998, the family moved to Waycross, Georgia, with the railroad. In 2001, Ronald and Margaret opened their hearts and home as foster parents. In 2003, he changed careers and became a teacher, a calling that would define much of his life's work. While teaching, he earned his master's degree in education and a master's in theology, becoming an ordained deacon in 2013. He taught earth science, technology, and special education, and also taught adults at the local prison. The family continued to grow through adoption in 2004 and again in 2009, expanding into their own softball team.

In 2017, Ronald began a courageous battle with multiple myeloma, facing routine medical procedures and scares with characteristic bravery. In 2018, he lost his mind and bought his first boat, so it balanced out. Over the next eight years, he became a grandfather multiple times and continued to be a

sounding board for anyone who needed it, remaining brave, loving, and present in all of his children's lives until the end.

Ronald is preceded in death by his mother, Ethel Milkas (2024); brother, Robert Milkas (2004); and father, Calvin Milkas (1993). He is survived by his brother, Richard Milkas; niece, Shelbi (Dimitri) Drakopoulos; wife, Margaret Milkas; daughters Cameo (Jeremy) Haynes and grandsons Jonathan and Jackson, Nichelle Milkas, Lizzie (Sean) Milkas, Katrina (Heath) Walker and grandson Waylon and granddaughter Lyza, Sabrina (Matt) Edwards, and Chelsea (Ryan) Milkas and grandsons Cristopher and Bryson; and son Denver (Katie) Milkas and granddaughters Emmie and Bailee and grandson Grayson.

Ronald's deep religious faith was the foundation of his life, guiding everything he did. He had a gift for bringing people together, whether around the grill for a family gathering, on the water for a fishing trip, or in the kitchen where he loved preparing and sharing meals. He was a jack of all trades who could fix anything and was always willing to teach others. The Bills, hunting, and the outdoors brought him joy, but his greatest passion was making others feel included and valued. He had an extraordinary ability to support people during their toughest times, offering wisdom, encouragement, and presence even when it wasn't expected. His legacy is one of service, generosity, and unconditional love—a life lived in a way that made everyone around him feel like family.

Services will be held on Saturday, January 3rd 2026, at St. Paul's Catholic Church, 4178 US Highway 441 S, Douglas, Georgia 31535. The Rosary Service will begin at 1:30 p.m., followed by Funeral Mass at 2:00 p.m. Interment will take place at the church, with a reception to follow in St. Paul Social Hall.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to <https://www.stpaulmissions.org/giving>. The family extends heartfelt thanks to the many health professionals who worked to ease the last eight years, and to the friends and family who offered support, love, and laughter. Above all, gratitude to his wife, Margaret Milkas, who survives him in life and continues to be a family pillar.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 3. 1:30 PM (ET)

St Paul Catholic Church
4178 US-441
Douglas, GA 31535-5732
(912) 384-3560

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Margaret and Family,
I was very saddened to hear about Ron's
passing. He was such a good guy. Try to
focus on the laughter and good memories, to
help get you all through this difficult time. RIP
Buck. Ellen Milkas



Ellen Milkas - January 03 at 04:54 PM

MS

“ Mike and Jen Schilling purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Ronald James Milkas.



Mike and Jen Schilling - January 02 at 08:41 PM

KO

“ Lizzie- our hearts and prayers are with you and your family at this
sad and difficult time. Bob and Kathi Oen and family

KathiLynn Oen - January 02 at 09:39 AM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the
family of Ronald James Milkas.



January 02 at 08:46 AM

AF

“ American Red Cross Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald James Milkas.

American Red Cross Family - January 02 at 08:46 AM

LF

“ Milkas family: girls: so sorry to hear this. I have such wonderful memories of you all.
I know the memories of all the years together will always be a source of comfort. All my love ❤️
Lynne Fields

Lynne Fields - January 01 at 09:58 PM

GN

“ Greg Oliver, NY purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Ronald James Milkas.



Greg Oliver, NY - January 01 at 08:39 PM

GN

“ Greg Oliver, NY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald James Milkas.

Greg Oliver, NY - January 01 at 08:39 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Ronald James Milkas.*



January 01 at 12:08 AM

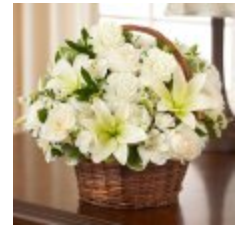


“ *Robin Bradshaw planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald James Milkas.*

Robin Bradshaw - January 01 at 12:08 AM



“ *The Michaels, DiDonatos, Brit, Ash & Dan purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Ronald James Milkas.*



The Michaels, DiDonatos, Brit, Ash & Dan - December 31, 2025 at 10:20 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald James Milkas.*



December 31, 2025 at 06:23 PM

TF

“ The Wilkinson family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald James Milkas.

The Wilkinson family - December 31, 2025 at 06:23 PM

LB

“ Love, Bert purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of Ronald James Milkas.



Love, Bert - December 31, 2025 at 04:22 PM

LB

“ Love, Bert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald James Milkas.

Love, Bert - December 31, 2025 at 04:22 PM

SM

“ Susan Cohen (Bert's Mom) purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Ronald James Milkas.



Susan Cohen (Bert's Mom) - December 31, 2025 at 04:04 PM

SM

“ Susan Cohen (Bert's Mom) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald James Milkas.

Susan Cohen (Bert's Mom) - December 31, 2025 at 04:04 PM

RH

“ Katrina so sorry to hear of you Dad's passing. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. 🙏❤️ Ms Ruth

Ruth Howe - December 31, 2025 at 11:06 AM