



Mr. Joseph Michael Shook

August 8, 1946 - December 16, 2025

Joseph Michael Shook age 79, of LaFayette, Georgia, entered his eternal home of heaven on December 16, 2025. Mike Shook was a man with many life pursuits, but at the core of himself, he was a farmer. This farmer's heart held a deep faith in a higher power, his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and a resilient spirit to endure the challenges of all uncertain seasons. He was born in Chickamauga, Georgia, in 1946 to Mary Belle Hughes Shook and Joseph William "Bud" Shook, who tied their son's heart to the soil and motivated his love for the land. Knowing that he would one day take over the family farm, Mike developed an interest in various agricultural outlets, such as 4-H and FFA, during his time in middle school and at Chattanooga Valley High School. Upon graduation from high school, Mike attended his first two years of college in Tifton, Georgia at ABAC (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) and then transferred to and graduated from the University of Georgia with his degree in Agriculture. He left UGA in June of 1968 and started working with the Federal Land Bank in Columbia, SC, as a field representative for the Federal Land Bank Associations of South Carolina. This is where he met his lifelong love, Alona Beckham Shook, and they were engaged in September 1968. In January 1969, Mike enlisted in the United States Army and departed for his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completion, he came home and was married in June of 1969. He was then stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he proudly served with the First Air Cavalry Division. While attending Officer Candidate School, his advanced training led him to become

a Forward Observer at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. His orders were received in February of 1970 to leave for Vietnam, and he returned on Thanksgiving Day, November 1970. Throughout Mike's life, many vocations came and went, but his family was his rooted ground. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Alona Beckham Shook; daughter and son-in-law, Melanie (Eric) Brown of Carroll County, Georgia; son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan (LeAnne) Shook of Chickamauga, Georgia; granddaughters and treasures of his heart, Cassidy Brown and Cailee Grace Shook. The family will receive friends Sunday – December 21, 2025 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm – Monday – December 22, 2025 graveside at Chattanooga Veterans National Cemetery with Pastor Rich Huff officiating. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Operation Heal Our Patriots, A Project of Samaritan's Purse. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel. Online register book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery

1200 Bailey Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404
(423) 855-6590

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel
215 Lee Ave.
P.O. Box 370
Chickamauga, GA 30707
(706) 375-2161
bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Graveside Service

DEC **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404
(423) 855-6590

Tribute Wall



“ *Man.....Mr. Shook was awesome !! To me, to my family, to everybody he cared about -- I grew up in the same neighborhood as Jonathan and Melanie so we were all friends and hung out with each other for the good majority of our young lives. We were honestly like family in a lot of ways. Back in 1993 when the big snow hit us, Mike, Alona, Jonathan and Melanie welcomed my brother, my mother and myself in to their home for many days because we had no electricity, no heat and couldn't get out of our neighborhood to get to any. They kept us warm, fed us, gave us a spot on their floor to sleep....I'll always hold that memory close and dear because without Mr. Shook and his family my Mama probably would've froze to death or had frostbite of some sort --- god bless you sir, may your journey to our wonderful creator be expeditious and as comfortable as you always made me feel in your home growing up. --- remember....if 1 day in heaven is equal to 1000 years on earth, it won't be long before we see Mr. Shook again !! We Love you guys always no matter how long it is before we see each other again --*
Neil Gilbert

Nichole Gilbert - December 21, 2025 at 08:02 PM

CP

“ *Lost as usual.
went to Ft O funeral home
drove about an hour, sorry I missed the viewing .
Hello to everyone I missed, your cousin,
Steve Payne
yeup I'm still here*

charles Steve payne - December 21, 2025 at 04:52 PM

DS

“ *RIP Buddy!*

Dale Schmitt - December 18, 2025 at 10:19 AM