



Chester Nolan "Chet" Childers

January 22, 1952 - June 3, 2026

After a courageous battle with ALS, Chester Nolan "Chet" Childers passed away peacefully at home on June 3, 2026.

Born on January 22, 1952, in Cairo, Georgia, to LaVonne Aspinwall Childers and Edd Lee Childers, Chet graduated from Cairo High School and earned a degree in Engineering Economic Systems from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1974. A proud Yellow Jacket, he even named his black-and-gold power chair "Buzz" in honor of his alma mater. He spent his career in manufacturing systems and retired as a software systems engineer after logging more than two million miles on Delta Airlines.

Chet shared almost 52 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Nancy Reeves Childers. He was a devoted father to Lee, Doug, and Patrick; father-in-law to Jamie, Molly, and Lauren; and proud grandfather to Sara, Nellie, Gehrig, Georgia, Molly, Maggie, Ellie, and Lily. He is also survived by his brother-in-law Tom Reeves, sister-in-law Gloria Reeves, niece Amy Reeves Dollar, her husband Emmett, daughter Emma, many cousins, and countless friends who became family.

A member of McKendree United Methodist Church for more than 30 years, Chet served faithfully as an usher and on the church finance committee.

Golf was one of Chet's greatest joys. He cherished time on the course with friends, celebrated a hole-in-one at Hamilton Mill Country Club on August 18, 2022, and enjoyed memorable golf trips to Pinehurst, North Carolina, and St. Andrews, Scotland.

Chet and Nancy loved traveling together, especially on cruises. Among their many adventures, a Panama Canal cruise stood out for its engineering marvels. One of Chet's most meaningful journeys was accompanying Patrick to China in 2017 when he and Lauren adopted their daughter, Lily.

Nancy's and Chet's cousin, Bob, convinced them to hike the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage from Porto, Portugal to Santiago, Spain in 2022. That trip led to an even longer Camino pilgrimage the following year which was from the South of France to Santiago, Spain. Though he fell several times on that hike, he stood up, brushed himself off, and kept hiking. Determination and perseverance were two of his strong character traits, and he successfully reached the Cathedral in Santiago for the second time despite many challenges along the way. His third Camino pilgrimage in 2024 ended after 200 miles due to a significant fall which led to his official diagnosis of ALS on October 15, 2024.

From childhood, he enjoyed automobile racing attending NASCAR races in person and watching them on television. Because Bill Elliott was his favorite driver of all time, he was a big fan of Chase Elliott in recent years. Chet was proud of the fact that two ALS benefits for the organization "Racing for ALS" were done in his honor. He participated in both events, and it gave him purpose in his ALS journey to know that he was helping others with this terrible disease.

Chet will be honored at a Celebration of Life event on Monday, June 22, 2026 at McKendree United Methodist Church located at 1570 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road in Lawrenceville, GA. The Celebration begins at 1:00 pm, and there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. The inurnment will follow the reception and will be at the columbarium located next to the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Racing for ALS or McKendree

United Methodist Church in honor of Chet if desired. Racing for ALS funds research and helps families affected by ALS. The address is: Racing for ALS, PO Box 1027, Holly Springs, NC 27540. The address for McKendree United Methodist Church is 1570 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

McKendree United Methodist Church
1570 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd
Lawrenceville,, GA 30043

Inurnment

JUN 22 (ET)

McKendree United Methodist Church
1570 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd
Lawrenceville,, GA 30043

The inurnment will follow the reception and will be at the columbarium located net to the church.

Reception

JUN 22 (ET)

McKendree United Methodist Church
1570 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd
Lawrenceville,, GA 30043

Reception following the Celebration of Life Service.

Tribute Wall

RD

“ I only had the pleasure of knowing Chet since he took up golf at Hamilton Mill Golf Club after retiring. We also played several rounds of golf together at Traditions Golf Club on Saturdays. He had quite a bit of determination and focus to improve, and he managed to do just that. The amount of effort he put into lining up a putt, whether 25 inches or 25 feet was extraordinary. As far as I could tell, he approached everything he did with the same determination and hard work, while never losing sight of the really important things in life: God, family and friends. He never took his friends for granted, and he was openly thankful for each one of them. He often spoke of his children and wife, and you could tell he was extremely proud of them. He saw God at work in their lives as they navigated some challenges of their own. Chet was always supportive of his children’s needs—including a trip to China and trips to Texas to assist with caring for grandchildren. I will miss Chet, but he will be remembered.

Ray Drogan

Ray Drogan - June 21 at 08:35 PM

BN

“ Chet and I became acquainted through our golf at Hamilton Mill. Both of us were anal (common slang usage for someone overly precise) Georgia Tech graduates with a penchant for “by the numbers”. We both became students of the game and shared ideas on the best new technology available. For several years he and I unwittingly competed for who could have the most golf toys and new club or grip solutions. At one point I had amassed four or five sets (or partial) of clubs, but I think Chet eventually topped me. In fact, “Mr. eBay” would try something of mine and often it would be sold online quickly if it didn’t suit him. B&E Custom Golf in Winder was one of his and my favorite places.

Chet took over the Hamilton Mill Tuesday seniors’ game from Ed Davidson in July of 2019. I had assumed the Hamilton Mill Thursday seniors’ game from Mike McCoy in March of 2016. Chet and I shared the twice weekly duties I think quite handsomely for several years, always tweaking the game (our Excel spreadsheets) and filling in for each other as a need arose. Nancy would “DRAG” him to Jekyll Island every year for a week or two and I would regularly have my own distractions. Chet was a great friend to me when I had to bring my wife home in hospice in December of 2022. I will miss Chet’s great smile and “never say never” attitude.

Bob Nowell - June 13 at 01:27 PM

CR

“ I grew up with Chester as a child, we ran around our Granddaddy farm in Smithville, Ga. with the rest of our cousins. We had so many memories as a child. Aunt Lavonne and Uncle Ed were the greatest. He will be missed by all of us. Will rem6 Chester in all our prays. Rest in peace! Charlene

Charlene Robinson - June 09 at 12:29 PM

DS

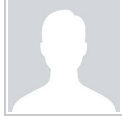
Chester and Nancy were an amazing couple! My prayers will be with Nancy as she navigates her life without him!

Deborah Singleton - June 10 at 09:23 AM

BM

Chet and Nancy moved in next to Brenda and I when we lived in Lawrenceville almost 30 years ago. We would often see Lee, Doug, or Patrick and their dog, Freckles. We later moved to Sugar Hill but we stayed in touch with each other, meeting for dinner to catch up. Nancy and Brenda both taught school in Gwinnett County. Chet and I would also often meet for lunch and occasionally played golf. We both loved golf but Chet was more into the equipment and gadgets than me. I'm a Clemson graduate so Chet and I both enjoyed bragging about our respective athletic programs. Chet will be missed. Bill and Brenda Moore

Bill Moore - June 17 at 01:52 PM



It was on Day 02 of our 865 km (about 538miles) trek /pilgrimage over the French Pyrenees heading towards Santiago de Compostela that we first met up with Nancy and Chet Childers at a café called, Bar Juan in the small town of Viscarret-Guerendiain.

It was simple lunch, but what made it special was the delightful company of Nancy and Chet. Upon finding out they were from Georgia, we gave them the nickname, 'The Peaches.' You couldn't help but be drawn to their personalities and both had a great sense of humour. Right off the bat, they made you feel comfortable and were very curious as to why we were undertaking such an arduous journey, as we too were of them.

Over the course of our trek, we bumped into them infrequently but we teamed up in Pamplona and later in León. León was particularly special and they asked us to join them for dinner. Chet had somehow managed to magic up some 20 or so other people to join them at one long table in front of the majestic edifice of Santa Maria de Regla, a towering and imposing cathedral dating from the 10th century. It was a wonderfully memorable night of food, drink and laughter.

We found Chet to be a very polished individual, refined, driven and hugely intelligent with a strong sense of community and camaraderie. A 'can do' sort of guy with no obstacle insurmountable.

We joined Nancy and Chet on the 18th September 2023 at the Parador Hotel in Santiago de Compostela to celebrate the end of their Camino. We all drank bubbles, laughed and congratulated each other on our achievements and shared notes on the highs and lows. We will cherish the photographs that Nancy sent to us of Pamplona and Santiago de Compostela.

We are so very sad to hear of Chet's passing, but also so honoured to have had the privilege of knowing him, albeit briefly. A true gentleman.

Nos veremos de nuevo mi buen amigo

*Stephen Cassidy & Casey Wellington
Stratford Taranaki New Zealand*

Stephen Cassidy - June 22 at 05:47 AM