



Mr. Paul M. Nichols

January 16, 1931 - June 25, 2015

Paul Munnerlyn Nichols died Thursday, June 25, 2015 at Phoebe Putney North Hospital in Albany. His funeral services will be at the graveside, 10 AM, Monday, June 29, 2015 at Oakview Cemetery. The Rev. Biff Coker will officiate. The family will receive friends, Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 3 PM to 4:30 PM at Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors.

Paul Munnerlyn Nichols was born January 16, 1931 to the late Robert Dicks Nichols and Florence Munnerlyn Nichols.

Paul graduated from Albany High School in 1948 and the Georgia Institute of Technology with Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering in 1952. Next he entered the U.S. Navy and became a naval aviator at Pensacola in 1953 and served as a seaplane, patrol and transport command pilot until retiring with the rank of Commander in 1972. He worked for 11 years at Lockheed, Marietta as a flight test engineer before returning to Albany as Assistant Engineer Manager for Rockwell Aircraft which later became Ayres Corporation and now Thrush Aircraft. Until 2010 Paul was an F.A.A. Designated Engineering Representative, and he was a Professional Aeronautical Engineer. As Vice President of Engineering at Ayres Corporation, Paul was principally responsible for the technical design, development, test and served as the certification test pilot for the Ayres Turbo Thrush Agricultural Aircraft, one of the first turbine powered aerial application aircraft in the nation and the

world which remains the continuing line of business at Thrush Aircraft presently and for the foreseeable future.

Paul was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church and served as Deacon, Sunday school teacher, and Church Trustee. Paul was a kind and loving father, grandfather, husband and friend. His pleasant spirit will be missed and always remembered.

He is survived by his wife: Barbara T. Nichols, of Albany, two sons, John M. Nichols and wife Jennifer, of Kennesaw GA, and Robert Nichols, of Atlanta, his daughter Mary Dubois and husband Robert, of Ball Ground, GA , three grandchildren: Paul Munnerlyn Nichols II, Leslie Nichols, and Taylor Nichols, one great-grandchild, Paul Munnerlyn Nichols III.

You may sign the online guest register and share your thoughts and memories with the family of Mr. Nichols by visiting Kimbrell-Sterns website at www.kimbrell.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakview

200 Cotton Ave.
Albany, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **28**. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern
1503 Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 883-4152
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com?>

Graveside Service

JUN **29**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Oakview
200 Cotton Ave.
Albany, GA

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Paul M. Nichols*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. Paul M. Nichols*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Mr. Paul M. Nichols*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you John, and the rest of your family, in the loss of your dad.*

Sanford Proveaux

Sanford Proveaux - July 01, 2015 at 05:52 AM

TG

“ As Ayres Corporation's Director of International Sales, I often brought foreign buyers of Ayres Turbo Thrush aircraft to the Albany factory where I acted as translator in question-and-answer sessions between Paul and non-English speaking visitors.

Upon learning that Paul had worked with Fred Ayres as Chief Engineer, Designer and the first test pilot of the Turbo Thrush, visitors never failed to be profoundly impressed.

Paul's always good mood and fun sense of humor combined with his above-and-beyond professionalism, made knowing him memorable.

RIP, Paul.

*Tex Guthrie
Scottsdale, Arizona*

June 29, 2015

Tex Guthrie - June 29, 2015 at 05:51 PM

RO

“ Robbie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Paul M. Nichols



Robbie - June 29, 2015 at 07:33 AM

FR

“ Our hearts go out to Barbara and her family. Paul was truly one of the finest individuals we have ever known. Paul and I worked together very closely from 1970 to 2000 at Ayres Corporation. I will never forget the first flight of the Turbo Thrush on a foggy October morning in 1975 in Salinas, California with Paul as the test pilot. The first words spoken by Paul on the radio after breaking through the fog were "It flies like a home sick angel". As the chief engineer, designer, and test pilot, Paul's engineering knowledge revolutionized the agricultural aviation industry with the development of the Turbo Thrush. Paul will be truly missed by thousands of Turbo Thrush pilots worldwide.
Fred and Carol Ayres

fredayres - June 28, 2015 at 09:26 AM

BL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Paul's family. AgAir Update

Bill Lavender - June 27, 2015 at 04:37 PM

GD

“ Sending my love and prayers. Gladys Dowdell

Gladys Dowdell - June 27, 2015 at 11:21 AM

HK

“ I am so sorry about the loss of Paul. We used to work together in engineering at Rockwell International and after at Ayres and Thrush Aircraft. He will be missed.
Harold Kosola

Harold Kosola - June 27, 2015 at 11:07 AM

GW

“ *To the family: I used to work with Paul at Ayres Corporation. He used me as a fill in secretary, would take me away from K. Neal Barrett, in QC as he needed! He was the smartest man in the world. I thought so much of him. He will be sorely missed. Love, prayers, and sympathy to the family, friends and loved ones. Gail (Murphy) Williams of Carmen, Idaho.*

Gail Williams - June 27, 2015 at 09:59 AM