



## John William Finley

January 27, 1936 - May 21, 2022

John William Finley was born in Los Angeles, CA on January 27, 1936 to Gladys (Griffin) and William E. Finley. He attended St. Paul the Apostle Elementary School and Loyola High School, graduating in the summer of 1954.

John got the flying bug early on as a teenager, joined the California Air National Guard, and entered Pilot Training in 1956. In June of 1961 he was hired by Delta Airlines and spent his entire career with the airline until retiring in February 1996.

When John was first based in New Orleans, Louisiana he met and married the love of his life, Edith (Liebl) in 1971. He also later joined the Louisiana Coonass Militia.

John and Edith (Edie) celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 28th, 2021.

John was based in New Orleans, LA, then in Atlanta, GA, prior to moving to and retiring in Bonita Springs, FL where he resided until his death on May 21, 2022. His hobbies were old cars, going fishing, hunting with friends and flying experimental planes.

He leaves behind his wife Edie, son Christian (Chris) Finley, and daughter-in-law Mary Crispin-Finley.

We will miss our gentle husband and father.

His flying days will never end!

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34134 on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 10 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's name may be made to St. Leo's or the charity of one's choice.

To sign John's guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated since 1978.

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church  
28290 Beaumont Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

# Tribute Wall



“ *John William Finley*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *There wasn't a Delta pilot in New Orleans who did not call John Finley his friend. He was that kind of guy. I first met him when I was a flight engineer on the DC6 and he the copilot. I remember marveling at his ability to remember and read back lengthy clearances. Only later realized that he had done the same route so many times that he knew it from memory. Spent the night of Hurricane Betsy (1965) with John and Doug Groff in my French Quarter Apartment. Our brave toasts to 'bigger and better hurricanes' had long ended when shingles from our house (840 Esplanade) started hitting the roof the neighboring houses. Thanks for the memories through the years. A salute to a great aviator and friend. Sincere and heartfelt condolences to 'fellow German' Edie who is also a good friend and. whose Christmas card was always the first to arrive every year. For how many years? 50?*

*Bernd Ulken*

**Bernd Ulken** - June 21, 2022 at 08:32 PM



“ *We share in the sadness of John's loss. He was our wonderful neighbor and a great / caring person. We will keep him in our prayers*

*Mark Panza & Mary Claffey*

**MARK PANZA** - June 01, 2022 at 03:41 AM

DH

“ *I started my career at Delta flying engineer for John in New Orleans. He was the best - a great pilot, a superior leader, and a role model for many that followed him. He will be missed.*

---

**daniel e holloway** - May 27, 2022 at 08:55 AM

DL

“ *Fondly remembering many wonderful trips and social events with John. He was a superb pilot and good friend for many years. Edie, you are in my thoughts.*  
*Dave Lorenzo*

---

**Dave Lorenzo** - May 26, 2022 at 02:36 PM