



## Louis John Demas

November 20, 1943 - June 10, 2022

Louis (Lou) John Demas of Newburg, MD passed away due to complications from ALS on June 10th 2022, surrounded by his loved ones. Just like he dealt with all experiences in life, Lou managed his illness with strength, grace and dignity.

He leaves his loving wife of 35 years, Connie; daughter Tasia Schmitz and her husband Bob; daughter Stefanie Demas; Grandchildren Rose Schmitz; Ben Schmitz and his wife Emily; Jessica Burrell and her husband Corey; Great Grandchildren Maggie and Annie Schmitz. And his beloved pets Captain Jack, Xena, Elsa, Kayleigh, Patches and Momma Kitty

He was born to parents Nicholas and Anastasia Demas in November 1943 in Washington, DC. In 1966, after graduating from the University of Maryland with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, he began a long and illustrious career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Working at the Goddard Space Flight Center in the Structural Dynamics Branch he was involved in the development, integration and testing of spacecraft subsystems and instruments for numerous space science missions all while pursuing his Masters in Engineering Administration from George Washington University. In 1976 he was the Space Shuttle Payload Programs Flight Awareness Manager and his career transferred to NASA headquarters, where he was the manager of the OSTA (Office of Space Terrestrial Applications) Shuttle Payloads flown on STS-2 (Space Transportation System) and he went on to become the Program Manager of OSTA-3 and Space Lab 2. In 1988, he

became the Chief of Flight Programs in the Space Physics Division responsible for CRRES (Combined Radiation Release Satellite), Wind Polar, SOHO and NASA's suborbital program. He was the Senior Program Executive in the Payloads Management Division responsible for all scientific missions at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Marshall Space Flight Center and the Applied Physics Laboratory. These missions included the Hubble Space Telescope, Explorer Programs, CHANDRA, the largest satellite the shuttle ever launched, Gravity Probe B, which experimentally investigated Albert Einstein's 1916 general theory of relativity, NEAR (Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous) the first mission ever to go into orbit around an asteroid and Timed (Thermosphere • Ionosphere • Mesosphere • Energetics and Dynamics) a mission dedicated to study the influences energetics and dynamics of the Sun and humans on the least explored and understood region of Earth's atmosphere.

After retiring from NASA in 1997, he went on to become Chair of an Independent Review Team for Solar Dynamics Observatory with SAIC. He worked on Deep Impact, a NASA Space Probe successfully launched to study the interior of the Comet Tempel-1 and DAWN, a NASA spacecraft that was the first spacecraft to orbit the Asteroid Belt.

For all of Lou's illustrious work titles his favorites were Husband, Dad, Granddad and PooPoo Pop. When he didn't have his head in the clouds or in space he was known to his family and friends as a bit of a Jokester, an Animal Lover, and a Chef. with an eclectic taste in music. He was an active member of Christ Church, Wayside, serving on both the financial and cemetery committees and as both Junior and Senior Warden and hosting the Annual Crab Feast. He enjoyed golfing, boating, hosting 4th of July and Thanksgiving celebrations and being surrounded by his family and friends.

Services to be held at Christ Church Wayside, Newburg, MD on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The ALS Association. Online: <https://donate.als.org/give/287064/#!/donation/checkout>. Please click Dedicate

my donation in honor or in memory of someone box and use email address loudemasals@gmail.com.

By Phone: Call (888) 949-2577. A tribute (in honor/in memory of) can also be attached to this donation by letting them know over the phone.

By Mail: Donations can be sent directly to The ALS Association, PO Box 37022 Boone, IA 50037-0022. If donating via mail, make sure to attach a note stating the donation is in honor/memory of "Lou Demas". So that it can be correctly attributed in the system. If a letter to notify the family is also wanted, please attach the name of the person and their address to send a tribute letter too.

# Cemetery Details

## Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery (Wayside)

13050 Rock Point Road  
Wayside, MD 20664

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church ~ Wayside  
13050 Rock Point Road  
Newburg, MD 20664

# Tribute Wall



“ *Louis John Demas*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Louis John Demas*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Lou and I were colleagues at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and later at NASA Headquarters in the Space Physics Division. I share the memories of Mary Mellott from the Annual Crab Feast for the Space Physics Division staff that Lou and Connie so generously hosted. I enjoyed my years working with Lou, who always had a way forward, regardless of the problems we faced managing our flight programs. I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the Demas Family on the passing of Lou.*

**Michael Calabrese** - July 02, 2022 at 02:16 PM



“ *Mike And Robin Langdon lit a candle in memory of Louis John Demas*



**Mike and Robin Langdon** - June 27, 2022 at 04:34 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louis John Demas.



---

June 25, 2022 at 11:22 AM



“ I was privileged to be on the scientific staff of NASA's Space Physics Division when it was created in 1987, helmed by Director Stan Shawhan, ably assisted by Lou as Flight Programs Director. There were many adventures in the SPD, but the event that I think best exemplified his contributions to the effort was the Space Physics crab feast that Lou hosted every summer at his house on the Bay - an all-day sit-around-in-the-August-heat, drink-a-lot-of-beer and eat-crab affair. It was there that our Deputy Director, Tom Perry, taught my daughters how to properly eat fresh-caught Bay crab. They have a lasting memory of recognizing at one point that the fest lasted all day because it took so much time to get the meat out of a crab. Lou's crab feasts were treasured moments to relax and enjoy the company of good colleagues.

---

**Mary Mellott** - June 18, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louis John Demas.



---

June 16, 2022 at 12:08 PM

MT

“ Words can't express how saddened I was to hear of Lou's passing. Wishing his family peace and strength during this difficult time.  
Margie Team

---

**Margie Team** - June 14, 2022 at 03:31 PM

LL

“ I was privileged to serve on the Vestry with Lou at St. Paul's Piney Episcopal church in Waldorf. Lou had a keen sense of what was needed when difficult decisions were facing the Vestry. He used his wonderful sense of humor to keep discussions on an even keel. Lou will be missed deeply by his friends at Piney Church. Lynn Lyons

---

**Lynn D. Lyons** - June 14, 2022 at 02:43 PM