

# Sister and brother who lost family members to pancreatic cancer to join forces at fundraiser

*Acclaimed aviator Brian Shul to give audience a pilot's eye view of fast-flying SR-71*

BY PETER JONES

In commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wings of Hope for Pancreatic Cancer Research, two siblings who lost both their mother and a brother to the disease have come together to raise funds to explore groundbreaking new treatments for one of the most challenging cancers.

And the wings will be flying in more ways than one.

Maureen Shul, who founded Wings of Hope 10 years ago, has invited her brother, Brian, an acclaimed pilot of top-secret aircraft, to take the stage at the annual Evening of Hope fundraiser. The two Shuls tragically lost their mother, Blanche, and brother, Victor, to pancreatic cancer within months of each other more than a decade ago.

"It's always special when Brian and I are able to team up, despite it bringing to the forefront, all the more, what this wretched disease has taken from us," said Maureen Shul, the founding mayor of Castle Pines and the executive director of Wings of Hope.

Brian Shul will be the featured speaker at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Evening of Hope, Sept. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Exploration of Flight hangar at Centennial Airport, 13005 Wings Way. The retired SR-71 pilot and author of *Sled Driver*, the definitive book on the covert spy plane, will tell his own harrowing true-life story. He will also bring the audience inside the world's fastest-flying



Brian and Maureen Shul

aircraft with his own rare collection of photographs taken inside the cockpit.

"I always carried my little camera with me," Shul said, "and though you would assume that would not be allowed, I dug into Air Force regulations — and while it never said I could, it never said I couldn't."

Shul's nonfiction story could have been the stuff of the movies. While flying over Vietnam in the early 1970s, the pilot was shot down and badly burned.

He spent nearly two years in a military hospital and was told he would never fly again.

"Sometimes the best motivation you can receive is when



Dr. Sana Karam, Wings of Hope research grant recipient, Jeremy Poincenot, blind national golf champion, Wings of Hope guest speaker Maureen Shul, Wings of Hope founder, Jim Comerford, pancreatic cancer survivor

a bunch of people who don't know you tell you what can't be

another kind will also take flight at Evening of Hope when the

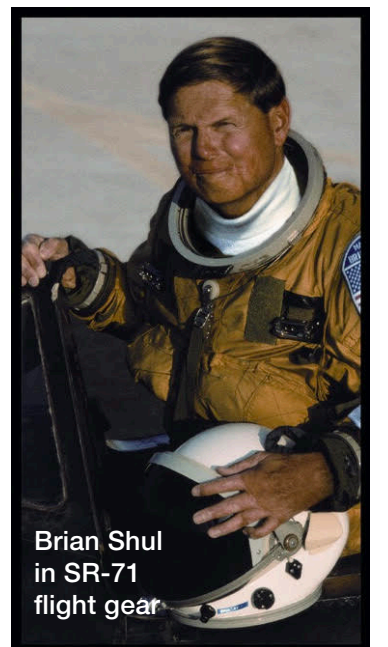
Shuls pay tribute to their two late family members and others who have been lost to pancreatic cancer. The annual Evening of Hope was created to help increase awareness and raise funds for the leading-edge research taking place at the University of Colorado Cancer Center on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

Wings of Hope has already

all time."

Trained as an astronaut, Shul would go on to become one of only 93 men to ever fly the top-secret, high-speed SR-71, a fabled spy plane affectionately called the Black-bird.

Resilience of



Brian Shul in SR-71 flight gear

given two milestone grants for 2022, totaling \$350,000 — more than double what the organization has typically awarded annually. The record-breaking grants were made possible by the generous support of the community, even though fundraising efforts were halted last year during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first sponsored trial is looking into how the drug ASO may combat a gene that protects cancer cells. The second is studying a new possible way to fight a protein that hastens the spread of pancreatic cancer by suppressing cancer-fighting cells.

An Evening of Hope will include a dinner buffet, cocktails and a live auction. Individual tickets are \$100. Sponsorships are also available. All proceeds will benefit the ongoing research.

Visit [wingsofhopepcr.org](http://wingsofhopepcr.org) for more information.



done," Shul said of his journey. "I knew I would fly again. I just didn't know at the time it would be in the cockpit of the world's highest and fastest-flying jet of

Wings of Hope has already



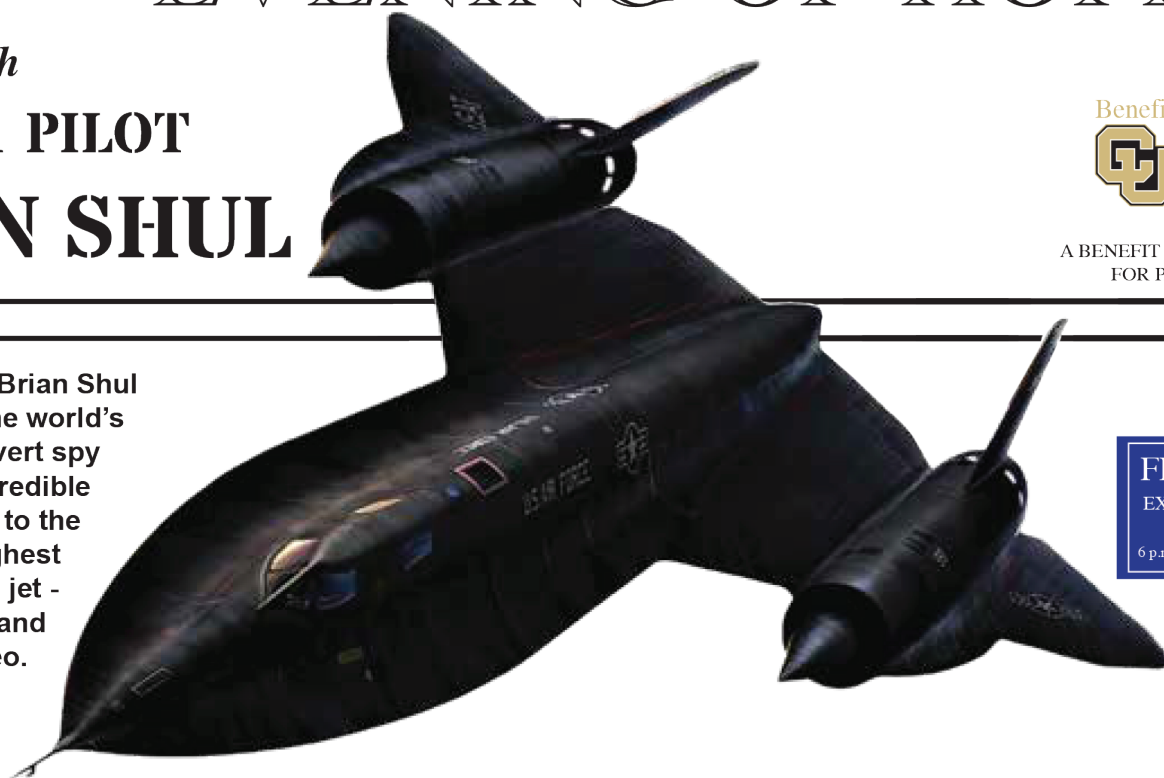
## Presents 10th Annual EVENING OF HOPE

With  
**SR-71 PILOT  
BRIAN SHUL**

Benefiting  
 **Cancer Center**  
NCI-DESIGNATED COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

A BENEFIT TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDING  
FOR PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH

Hear SR-71 Pilot Brian Shul describe flying the world's most exciting covert spy plane and his incredible personal journey to the cockpit of the highest and fastest flying jet - with rare photos and breathtaking video.



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022**  
EXPLORATION OF FLIGHT | CENTENNIAL AIRPORT  
13005 WINGS WAY  
6 p.m. RECEPTION BUFFET 7 p.m. LIVE AUCTION, PRESENTATION

**TICKETS: WINGSOFHOPPEPCR.ORG | or call (720)-733-0491**