



# Dennis Michael Duffy

JAN 3, 1944 - MAR 5, 2009



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## **Dennis Michael Duffy**

JAN 3, 1944 - MAR 5, 2009

**C**olonel Dennis Michael Duffy, USMC, Ret., passed away on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Beloved husband of 23 years to Gail Duffy; father to Claire Duffy, Dennis Duffy, Jr., Kathryn D. Smith & her husband Durb and Kelli D. Filardi & her husband Dan; and brother of Mary Beth D. Florczak & her husband Adam. He is also survived by three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother, Rita Sweeney Duffy; his father, Gerard Duffy, Sr.; and two brothers, Gerard Duffy, Jr. and Timothy Duffy. Age 65 years, he was a native of Elizabeth, NJ and a resident of Mandeville, LA for the past 13 years. In 1961 he graduated from St. Benedict's Prep School in Newark, NJ, where he received his varsity letter on the 1959-1960 undefeated Hall of Fame Cross Country and Track teams. He graduated in 1965 from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY, where he was on the varsity swim team and was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus College Council. A United States Marines Corp veteran, he served during the Vietnam Era. He flew 768 combat missions, made combat flight strike leader as a First Lieutenant in Vietnam, was named Flight Instructor of the year in 1970 for the VT-7 fixed wing jet aircraft and was Commanding Officer, 1984 to 1986, of HMM-767 which was named Reserve Squadron of the year in 1986. He retired from the Marine Corp as a full Colonel in 1992. In civilian life, Colonel Duffy was employed as the Area Manager for Petroleum Helicopters Inc. in Fourchon, LA, where he was employed for 25 years.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 12:30 PM at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 1501 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70471.

A wake will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433; visitation will resume on Wednesday at 11:00 AM, AT THE CHURCH.



## Obituary

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A reception following Mass will be held at the family residence in Mandeville, LA. Graveside services with Military Honors will be conducted on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 11:00 AM at Barrancas National Cemetery, 80 Hovey Road, Pensacola, FL 32508.

A reception following graveside services will be held at the residence of Steve Brandt, 219 Thayer Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32507.

In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations to the annual fund at St. Benedict's Preparatory School, 520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Newark, NJ 07102-1314.



## Tribute Wall

**Dennis Michael Duffy**

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BK

**Bill Kuhlmeier** posted:

To the family of Dennis. Im sure that much joy was shared by all for the 23 years that you spent together, He will be sorely missed by all who knew Denny. A great guy and good pilot, he has always been considered a good friend and I still tell stories of experiences that he and I shared, most of which brought a laugh and smile to others. He did well in life and brought pride to his family and friends. Semper Fi, Den Love to you and yours Bill Kuhlmeier

April 17 at 7:00 PM

SB

**Susan Bourgeois** posted:

I got to know Dennis when he was a Realtor. He was always nice and kind.

April 10 at 7:00 PM

IL

**Iris Leonard** posted:

HE WILL ALWAYS BE MY HEART. I WILL MISS HIS LAUGH AND SENSE OF HUMOR. I FELL BLESSED THAT I HAD SOMEONE LIKE DENNIS AS A FRIEND HE WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON. MY BLESSING TO GAIL & CLAIRE YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY THOUGHTS.

April 10 at 7:00 PM

DS

**Dennis Schaff** posted:

So sorry to hear my good Friend & Neighbor , Fellow Night had passed. I know personally He is with His Maker. I Loved him like a Brother. I will Surely Miss Him.

March 18 at 7:00 PM

MW

**Mike Walsh** posted:

Gail and family...I was a second cousin to Dennis (my mom Gen "Daughtie" Boyle Walsh was Jerry Sr.'s first cousin), and was directed to this site by my sister Madeleine. The Duffys I knew well were Dennis's parents and brother Tim. I knew I had a war hero cousin who I also understand from siblings and other Elizabeth people was also a generous, humorous, and solid guy. Sorry I never got to know him. But I do extend best wishes to all of you on the loss of a human being that made such a positive contribution to all and all of you. Mike Walsh

March 16 at 7:00 PM

GR

**Gerald Rockwell, Aka Rocky** posted:

My deepest regrets and best memories of Dennis are sent to you in my prayers. I worked at PHI EMS in New Orleans with Dennis before he became manager at Fourchon. Dennis was a very memorable person to anyone who worked with him. I always enjoyed being in a conversation with him or just listening. He made me smile as it was usually his demeanor. I have no doubts you will see him again. God Bless you, Rocky

March 14 at 7:00 PM

AF

**Adam C. Florczak** posted:

I have digital photos of the interment ceremony at Barrancas National Cemetery. Send your email address to me and I will forward you copies of the photos. HUDACF@AOL.COM

March 13 at 7:00 PM

AF

**Adam C. Florczak** posted:

Photos of Col. Dennis Duffy's interment can be found on the internet link below. If you are unable to access send me your email address to HUDACF@AOL.com

[http://www2.snapfish.com/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=258652744/a=163092155\\_163092155/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND\\_NAME=comcast2](http://www2.snapfish.com/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=258652744/a=163092155_163092155/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=comcast2)

March 13 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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JJ

**Jim** posted:

Sorry for your loss Dennis and family. Know that your Dad's suffering and pain is now gone and he is resting in a better place. I am sure he will be watching over you and he will be waiting for you when it is your turn to be with him again. He will be there to greet you and guide you thru.

March 11 at 7:00 PM

CM

**Carol Medeiros** posted:

Dear Gail and children, My sincerest condolences to you all during this trying time. I'm very sorry that I was unable to attend his funeral. I got the phone call about Dennis' passing from Jim Haynie, a fellow Marine, earlier this week. I served with Dennis in Det A, 4th MAW. I shall always remember his wit and kindness. Please remember that your separation from him is temporary -families will be reunited in the hereafter! Sincerely, Carol Medeiros Col USMCR (Ret) 3207 Laurel Dr. Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 (I'm not sure you remember me, but another WM officer (Karen Lundblad) and I visited your home when Claire was just a tyke.)

March 11 at 7:00 PM

CF

**Chris Florczak** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

March 11 at 7:00 PM

RP

**Roxsel Pellham** posted:

I worked with Dennis out of Fourchon, LA at PHI. He was a great man to work with and had a big heart. He will be missed.

March 10 at 7:00 PM

AF

**Adam Gerard Florczak** posted:

Ever since I was a kid,the sound of an approaching helicopter made me think of you,denny.That sound means twice as much to me now.Besides being my uncle,you were always a great friend on top of that.Whether we talked about our motorcycles,work,or fishing.You always had that outgoing,respectful attitude of a true friend.That "Hillside Rd." attitude.You made anybody feel comfortable and safe.I am so glad we all had a chance to enjoy time together last summer.Each day that passes now is one more closer to our next reunion.I look forward to hearing your newest jokes.Give my love to everyone waiting for you.Keep your eyes on that horizon! I'll miss you man.

March 10 at 7:00 PM

NC

**Norm Cunningham** posted:

Dennis, I am very sorry for your loss. Norm

March 10 at 7:00 PM

PB

**Paul Bankston** posted:

My condolences and sympathy to you Gail. It was so good to know and work with a person like Dennis

March 10 at 7:00 PM

BM

**Barry & Alma Mims** posted:

My Dear Friend Dennis, God saw you getting tired and cure was not to be, so he put his arms around you and whispered come with me, with tearful eyes, we watched you slowly fade away although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, your hard working hands put to rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. He loved unconditional, and those of us fortunate enough to call you a friend will forever be nourished by all that love. God Bless Your Family.

March 9 at 7:00 PM



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JR

**Jay B. Fitch, Major Usmc (Retired)** posted:

My wife, Grace and I send our deepest sympathy and condolences at your loss. I served with Dennis during the Vietnam Conflict and again during the last 29 years with PHI. We all came to love him and know what a wonderful man Dennis was and how much he gave to the world. He will be greatly missed by us all! May God Bless You and Keep you in His Loving Hands now and always. Semper fidelis, Jay & Grace

March 9 at 7:00 PM

BR

**Byron Ruck** posted:

I'm so very glad I was able to get to know Duff during our time in '363. He had special innate ways about him which made him a great friend to know and a much better than average leader. Many of our lives are better today because of you - Thank You and May God be with you!

March 8 at 7:00 PM

GU

**Gysgt Ronald N Brady, Usmc, Ret** posted:

Deepest sympathies...a great loss

March 8 at 7:00 PM

KB

**Kinsman Bounds** posted:

I served with Col. Duffy in the Marines in Belle Chasse, La. I was saddened to see he passed. If the Army and the Navy Ever look on Heaven's scenes, They will find the streets are guarded By United States Marines. Semper Fi Col. Duffy

March 8 at 7:00 PM

KD

**Kenneth J. Donewar** posted:

Kenneth Donewar, Sgt., HMM-767, 1971-1976. Dennis was the officer in charge of our maintenance shop. I'll remember him as a good friend and a great Marine pilot. I am so sorry for your loss.

March 8 at 7:00 PM

DR

**David J. Leighton, Col Usmc ((Ret)** posted:

The passing of a friend or loved one, regardless of the circumstances, is always accompanied by grief for those of us who remain. We never seem to be prepared. I will miss Denny. When we served together in New Orleans, Denny was always a positive influence for all of us. He cared for people, especially for those who needed that extra measure of care. We used to have long talks about the things that matter; he had a good handle on values. I am thankful to have known Denny as my comrade and friend. He will always be remembered as person of significance. He was a skilled aviator and a capable leader of Marines. You are in the Lord's hands now Dennis - where better? Semper fi, Dave

March 8 at 7:00 PM

GU

**Guage** posted:

MY CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO YOU DENNIS JR AND FAMILY. I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS

March 8 at 7:00 PM

CN

**Carl Neubig** posted:

I Flew with Denny out of Grand Isle for Conoco. He had just been checked out in 412s. The ship we were flying was only the second 412 PHI owned, it had a grand total of 40 hours. Denny was one of the finest pilots I ever had the privilege to fly with. I'm also an ex-Marine who served in 'Nam. Semper Fi Denny

March 7 at 7:00 PM



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AJ

**Anne Jackson** posted:

To best friend Gail and God-Daughter Claire, my thoughts are with you. Denny was such a lovely man - always so kind and welcoming on my rare visits. I have especially good memories of boiled shrimp and corvettes! I read elsewhere that Denny was "always a smile and a shake", which is a memory of him that I will always carry. My heart goes out to you both at this difficult time.

March 7 at 7:00 PM

JC

**Jimj Citrano** posted:

Denny was truly a Great American and friend to all who knew him.

March 7 at 7:00 PM

TN

**Ted C. Mc Neel Sr.** posted:

My sincere condolences and sympathy in the passing of husband and father, Colonel Dennis Michael Duffy, USMC Retired. Marines everywhere salute his honorable service to our country and especially to our beloved Corps. He is now with the best Commander ever known to man! God be with you all! Ted C. Mc Neel Sr. Major USMC Retired

March 7 at 7:00 PM

CS

**Capt William Sims, Usn** posted:

Denny, You were all that any Military Officer should strive to be: extremely cool, collected, and competent--while also being warm and genuine and caring about others. When my Mom died Christmas 2006 you supported me, though you'd never met her. Truly "One of the Good Guys", as Sid Gale put it recently. Thanks for putting up with my questions about helo flying on Flight Simulator--I know it was nothing compared to the flying you did in Vietnam and during civilian medivac...still remember those stories!

March 7 at 7:00 PM

FF

**Faye And Kenneth Fulghum** posted:

Semper Fi Dennis--- A message from St Peter--" Put your flaps down and come on in "

March 7 at 7:00 PM

AH

**Angie Bodet Haena** posted:

To the loving family of Denny. I'm Joan McCarthy's sister, Angie, & knew the Duffy family, having the good fortune to get to know Rita & her family many years ago when they lived in Elizabeth, N.J. My very sincere condolences. You are in my thoughts & prayers at this time of great loss.

March 6 at 7:00 PM

BB

**Bob & Louise Burnham** posted:

In the Fall of 1967, I was a pilot in HMM-363, Vietnam, when you joined the Squadron. Besides being an excellent aviator, you possessed the rare ability to lead and keep us laughing at the same time. You had a great sense of humor without being frivolous, and I will always remember you as the best liked, most loved pilot in the squadron.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

MF

**Michael D. Fowler** posted:

Semper Fidelis my friend.

March 5 at 7:00 PM



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LM

**Larry And Gayle Monserrate** posted:

Duffy was famous for being able to fly the "Tail of the Duck", but we all knew him for so much more. A thoughtful person, an exacting and safety conscious pilot, an outstanding MARINE OFFICER, and a caring husband, father and friend. The stories are too many to relate here, but let it be known that when glasses are full and toasts are made (PEPE LOPEZ PLEASE) that his spirit will be smiling and enjoying the celebration of his life with us. He leaves a loving wife and family, and a CORPS of friends that salute him for the friendship and love he gave with no BS. He will only be missed until we all are piped aboard and attend our first AOM/APM. Semper Fi Brother

March 5 at 7:00 PM

DN

**David M. De Noux** posted:

Semper Fidelis....I didn't know you long, but I knew you long enough to know I was in the presence of a TRULY Good Man! It was an honor to know you!

March 5 at 7:00 PM

JM

**Joan And Thomas Mccarthy** posted:

Denny, You are now at peace with your heavenly family: Jerry, Rita, Jerry Jr., Timmy, Aunt Jean, Uncle Ray and all the many Duffy-Sweeney "Angels" welcoming you to Paradise! May you rest in peace in His love!

March 5 at 7:00 PM

DM

**Deirdre Macnamara** posted:

I am so sad to read this; the Duffy family were my neighbors growing up in Elizabeth, NJ, and they are the kind of neighbors, people, that are rare in this world today. They are incredibly kind, warm, special people. I remember being a little kid, and whenever Denny was around, he would take the time to talk to me. Not just say hi, but really talk, ask how school was or my cat or what I was up to. That made me feel special, a "grown up" paying attention to me! What a genuinely wonderful man. My heart goes out to his family. I am so so sorry. He was a wonderful person. You're in my prayers and thoughts.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

JC

**Jerry Coogan** posted:

Kim and I send our sympathies and prayers.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

TM

**Tom Mccarthy Jr.** posted:

To Gail and the whole family, Denny will be fondly remembered. Although I had not had much contact with Denny since I lived in Elizabeth NJ, I do recall his warm nature and kind heart. He was my Godfather. A part of me went with him to a better place. Accept my sincere condolences as a great man has returned home to God.

March 5 at 7:00 PM

TH

**Tom Heifner** posted:

Semper Fi, Duffy. We are all getting closer to that reunion of all quiet birdmen who have gone west. You certainly made my various USMC tours more humorous by being my squadron mate. The separation of the old squadron will be temporary and our reunion complete in the mansions of our Father.....and it will be only a moment in God's time. Until then, Semper Fi from Captain Perfect.

March 5 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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MF

**Marybeth Duffy Florczak** posted:

Mom always liked you best! This time, I'm glad she chose your hand to hold to cross over. My heart is broken at the loss of another wonderful brother, but it helps to know all 3 of you are together with Mom and Dad, just in time for St. Patrick's Day. A true Duffy to the end. You were independent and stubborn, full of generosity, kindness, and love for each heart you touched on your journey. In return, you had a battalion of "angels", waiting their turn to come help you at your journey's end. You were Blessed. I'm so proud to call you my brother. One final request, please be careful of hitting your head, as you sit up to salute "The Blue Angels", as they fly overhead. I'll love you forever....Honey

March 5 at 7:00 PM

FF

**Frank Fato** posted:

March 1966, Quantico, Va. 2nd Platoon, B Company. Denny and I along with about 40 other confused, lost, and generally scared Officer Candidates started what was to be a life changing experience. We headed to Flight School that summer, believing we were going to conquer the world. I got to Nam in February of '68. Denny was in 363 and I was in 163 at Quang Tri. Soon we met at Dong Ha, Denny pulled up his flight suit to reveal green sox with shamrocks.. And hit me with that special smile and laugh of his. We were as close as brothers. All of us Marines were. We have lost so many of our beloved brothers and this loss is very deep. My life was better because of Denny being in it... I hope I made it better. I will miss you Denny... Fates

March 4 at 7:00 PM

TF

**The Schmidt Family** posted:

Please know that our Prayers and offered Masses are with you. Sincerely with all our condolences Dave & Glenda Schmidt

March 4 at 7:00 PM

JD

**Jim Durr** posted:

At OCS Quantico VA the drill instructor growled, "Fall in in alphabetical order" and Durr found himself next to Duffy. What followed was a treasured friendship that traveled from that beginning to flight training in Pensacola, to rooming together in California, a Viet Nam tour, back stateside as flight Inst., many more years flying out of New Orleans in the Reserves... Duffy and Durr, joined at the hips. I know you have joined our other roomie Coburn who we lost early in the war. We mourned his loss then as I mourn you now. But I can't help but smile remembering the remarkable sense of humor you brought to every occasion... Semper Fi.

March 4 at 7:00 PM

AR

**Art And Kathy O'reilly** posted:

WE WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE WONDERFUL TIMES WE HAVE SHARED OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS KNOWING DENNIS. HIS JOKES WERE ALWAYS THE HIT OF THE PARTY AND HIS LAUGH CONTAGIOUS. HE WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND AN OUTSTANDING MARINE CORPS OFFICER. SEMPER FI MY BROTHER

March 4 at 7:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dennis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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