



Dennis M. Dwyer, RADM USN Retired
August 22, 1951 - April 14, 2020



Rear Admiral Dennis Michael "Denny" Dwyer, USN (Ret.) sailed into the sunset on April 14, 2020 after an extended battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was 68 years old.

Born August 22, 1951, he grew up in Levittown, PA with an inseparable gang of childhood friends. These friends served as his roots and their unbreakable bond through many decades of life serves as a testament to the true power of genuine friendship.

In 1969, Denny accepted his congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating as a member of the class of 1973's 18th company. During a career spanning 32 years, his life would be a whirlwind of adventures. He initially served as a Surface Warfare Officer aboard the USS LUCE (DDG 38) sailing the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. In 2002 he was promoted to Rear Admiral (upper half) and became the third Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers where he served until his retirement in 2005. As PEO Carriers he was responsible for the development and acquisition of carriers including the commissioning of REAGAN (CVN76), construction of BUSH (CVN 77), design of FORD (CVN78) and maintaining and modernizing the carrier fleet, enabling the surge deployment of six carriers for IRAQI FREEDOM.

In addition to his impact on national security Denny's legacy will also be defined by the love he fostered with his devoted wife of 40 years the former Eva Cicero; his two children, Shannon (Christopher) and Kevin (Jessalyn); his granddaughters, Kathleen and Caroline; and his sister, Diane (Terry). Denny's dry sense of humor was integral to his personality. He loved to play jokes on his family, always with a twinkle in his eye, followed by his trademark grin and chuckle. Whether he was tracking down pink station wagons, conversing all the way through our favorite TV shows, or blaming all mishaps on an invisible rabbit, Denny always brought the family together with his antics. His family saw him as a humble, real-life Columbo who was known to wander away from VIP tours of nuclear bases in order to hang out with the Marines watching cartoons in the ready room.

Denny was welcomed into his wife, Eva's, large Italian family with open arms. His favorite family memories involved visiting the Cicero's down the Shore. There he learned that family cookouts involve not burgers and hot dogs, but rather spaghetti and meatballs, and that giving your goodbye greetings at the end of a visit may last 2 hours.

A Navy football season ticket holder for more than two decades, Denny loved showing off the Naval Academy to friends and family, and delighted in time spent with his Class of 1973 classmates at tailgate parties and Army-Navy games.

Denny's pride and joy was his beach home in Fenwick Island, where he spent time enjoying the surf and sand. Denny could often be found relaxing by the water's edge with a good book and a cooler full of Diet Coke. When he wasn't rescuing dogs that were washed out to sea, Denny was overjoyed to teach his children, nieces, and nephews how to body surf and build child-size airplanes out of sand.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Naval Academy at a future date.

In this time of economic crisis and to honor his love of family please donate to your local food bank in Denny's memory.