



Richard H. Duke

February 13, 1939 - February 25, 2020

On Tuesday, February 25, 2020, Richard H. Duke, age 81, formerly of Wexford. Born February 13, 1939, he was the beloved husband of the late Rebecca (Becky) Reichert Duke; the youngest son of the late John R. and Ruth (Kirkwood) Duke; father of Susan N. (Joe Weisenhorn) Duke of Napa, CA and Kirkwood G. (Lanelle) Duke of Falmouth, ME; brother of Anne Ziegler and the late John Duke, Francis Morris, and Carole Henken; step grandfather of Lauren and Erica Roussel; also survived by many nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

Richard was known to childhood friends as Snuffy, to business associates as Dick, and later in life as Richard. He built lasting friendships throughout his life, and enjoyed dancing with Becky, travel, wine, chocolate, and cheering on the Steelers. He was a graduate of the University of Maryland and held an MBA from Lehigh University. His career included time at Westinghouse, Mellon Bank, and Development Dimensions International (DDI).

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Susan G. Komen at [komen.org](https://www.komen.org).

Tribute Wall

RM

“ To the Duke Family,

Richard and Patti Macy send our condolences and prayers for all of you.

Also, from one Arthur Murray dancer to another, may you cherish your dancing forever with Becky in Heaven!

God's Blessings..The Macy's

Richard Macy - March 01, 2020 at 01:54 PM

SD

Thank you

Susan Duke - March 01, 2020 at 03:28 PM

BH

“ During Doolie year, right after our initial ordeal with the ATO's, Duke was in Second Squadron. One day in ranks, Duke asked Ron Yates, later Maj General Yates "Sir, may I ask a question?" When told to speak, Duke said: "Sir, why are the falcons out?" The response was: "Get your head in, Duke. Those are pigeons!"

Bob Heriza - February 29, 2020 at 09:30 PM

SD



Susan Duke - March 01, 2020 at 11:38 AM

BH

Susan: I just got to thinking about the above post and fear that some may think I was making fun of your dad. Not in the least. I count him a true friend I made at USAFA.

I don't know how much he told you about what he went through as part of the Great Experiment of 1956 - 1961 at the USAF Academy. It's one of those incredible situations where you just had to be there.

If you are interested in learning more from someone who also was there, get a copy of "Doolie," by Gene Davis. It's a fictional recounting of that first year the Class of 1961 spent at Lowry AFB in Denver.

I have the dubious honor of being the model for Bob Hertz, a character in the book. (heriza@msn.com)

Bob Heriza - March 01, 2020 at 09:31 PM

SD

“ Spencer - I bet you have one of these photos



Susan Duke - February 29, 2020 at 09:03 PM

“ I was in the Air Force Academy Class of 1961 with Duke (all of our classmates called him Duke which I thought was unusual) and I only had one event which we shared. We were in our first year and had to compete against each other and he got me in a hold where I couldn't move or breath and I can still remember the referee waiting for me to concede defeat but I wouldn't do it so he finally called it. There were no hard feelings but I had respect for my classmate from then on.

Near Christmas time in 1959, I was dropping out of the Academy and when I was getting ready to leave I found out Duke was leaving also. My girlfriend Sharon had let me take her car to get to the Airport in Denver and Duke and I had to hurry to get to the airport in time for our scheduled flight which we were both taking east to Baltimore I think. When we arrived I dropped him at the airport, parked the car and called Sharon to explain to her where the car was located and rushed to the counter, got my ticket and ran to the gate where Duke was waving to me with a stewardess and 2 people were waiting to pull the ramp out with the stairs. I made it and we got on our trip to freedom. While we were flying, we got to discussing football and we were debating who would win - the Giants or the Colts.

Some time later, I went with an old friend of mine to the General Herkimer Hotel and he introduced me to the guy on the desk. When the guy heard my name, he said they had a Western Union telegram for me dated Dec 27th - it was from La Plata, MD and it said briefly "Baltimore 31 New York 16 HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA = UNSIGNED".

So I knew it was from Duke.

Finally, I was on a trip and was in between flights when a guy stopped me and when I looked it was my old classmate - Duke. We chatted for a while - I told him I worked for Remington Arms and he told me where he worked which I can't remember and then we continued on our way for the last time. I am 80 also and still remember my old classmate and friend after all these years.

Spencer Bennett (spencer@toddbennett.com)

Spencer Bennett - February 29, 2020 at 08:04 PM

SB

The year we left the Academy was 1958 not 1959

Spencer Bennett - February 29, 2020 at 08:08 PM

SD

I love this, thank you!

Susan Duke - February 29, 2020 at 09:00 PM

TE

*May the Lord bless you all.
Tom Eller, President
Class of 1961*

Thomas Eller - March 01, 2020 at 06:34 AM

KD

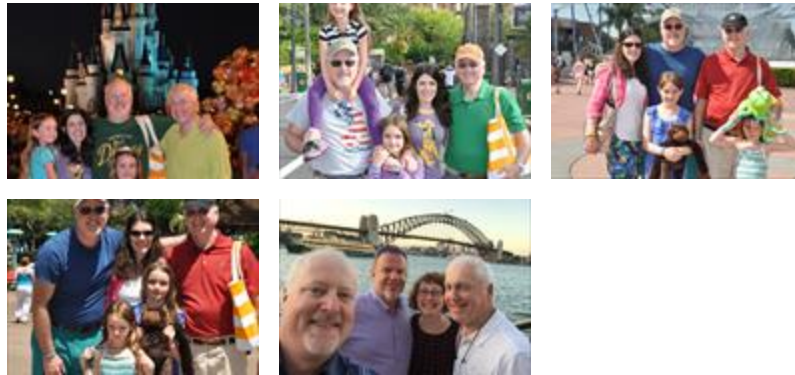
“ *And some REALLY old ones!*



Kirk Duke - February 29, 2020 at 02:22 PM

KD

“ And some more recent photos...



Kirk Duke - February 29, 2020 at 02:19 PM

DD

“ Dick has left so many of us (from his DDI days) with wonderful and fun memories of his talent, wit, smile, and lasting friendship. We are blessed to have known him. I'm fairly certain he has already taken Becky on a dance around the heavenly dance floor. May Dick rest in peace, dance with joy, and keep smiling into eternity.

Debra Dinnocenzo - February 28, 2020 at 11:52 PM

SD

Thank you ❤️💎💎💎

Susan Duke - February 29, 2020 at 12:24 PM

KD

“ These are a little more self-explanatory, and I also don't know where several of them are from, so... We'll just call this Dad and Becky pictures.



Kirk Duke - February 28, 2020 at 05:38 PM

KD

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Kirk Duke - February 28, 2020 at 04:26 PM

SD

Kirk, these are wonderful

Susan Duke - February 28, 2020 at 05:29 PM

TC

“*Dick had an infectious smile that just made everyone feel better. He was great at what he did because he cared for people and did not take life too seriously. He definitely helped me be successful in my career in sales. And he always had time for a game of golf!*”

Tom Chase - February 28, 2020 at 03:37 PM

SD

Thank you for sharing that ❤️

Susan Duke - February 28, 2020 at 04:05 PM

DB

Nothing but positive memories about one of the most positive guys I have ever met and worked with. RIP Dick

David Binder - February 28, 2020 at 04:42 PM

KD

We'll be having a service to celebrate his life on May 2 in Pittsburgh. Let us know if you would like to come!

Kirk Duke - February 28, 2020 at 05:48 PM

SD

“*Some more treasured memories*”



Susan Duke - February 28, 2020 at 03:19 PM

SD

“ Climbing up the Sydney Harbour Bridge with Dad, Joe and Kirk -
with a little Star Trek salute ❤️



Susan Duke - February 28, 2020 at 03:11 PM