

## Duane Clarence Beck



Duane Clarence Beck, age 84 of Loudon, TN passed away suddenly of heart failure on March 21, 2023.

Duane was born in Cady, WI, on May 7, 1938, to Inga and Clarence Beck. After graduating from Baldwin High School, where he played football, basketball, and baseball, voted Homecoming King, and taught Sunday School, he was appointed by the WI State Senator to attend the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He was a proud graduate of the US Naval Academy Class of 1960.

He met his wife Sarah (Sally) Courser by chance after she missed her bus and shortly thereafter won her hand in marriage March 3, 1961, a union which lasted 62 wonderful years.

After graduating from the Naval Academy, he served as a Major in the Marine Corp for 12 years. Duane and Sally

were first stationed in 29 Palms, CA where they welcomed their first daughter Lori. They moved to Monterrey, CA where he continued serving for the Marines, attending post graduate school for Engineering, and welcoming their second daughter Kristen. Prior to completion of his Masters, he was called on to serve 1 tour in Vietnam. Once he returned, the family was stationed in Camp Lejeune, NC where they welcomed a third daughter Tracy.

Upon retiring from active duty, he began working for Bell Telephone Company and moved to Tunnel Hill, GA. His career then brought the family to Minnesota. During this time, he continued in the Marine Reserves and Military Education Program and would travel with the family to Virginia for 2 weeks each summer to stay with Duane's Naval Academy roommate and best friend Lowell Webb and Family. He and Sally continued his career advancement in Hackettstown, NJ and then his last position as National Security Emergency Preparedness Director for the White House in Washington, DC where he ensured the Presidential Lines of Communication were always open and secure.

Duane retired from Bell Core in 1997 where he and Sally moved to Tellico Village just outside of Loudon, TN. He spent many years golfing, going on RV trips, boating, fishing, listening to country music, building birdhouses, attending high school, and planning many Naval Academy reunions, and sitting in his favorite chair in the sunroom with his Siamese cat Major. He also enjoyed spending quality time with his grandchildren (Lori-Matt, Nick, and Ty); (Kristen-Cassandra and Robyn) and (Tracy-Ashley) and great granddaughter Ava Grace. He was also a proud member of the Military Honor Guard providing service to Veterans.

Duane (Dewey, Papa) was deeply loved by his wife, children, and grandchildren. He enjoyed telling stories about meeting Sally, his time in the Marines and stories about his mother and his long-distance relatives in Norway. In his last phone call with his sister Eileen, he mentioned that marrying Sally was the best decision he ever made.

Papa was able to fix almost anything that was broken and said he would not charge for any extra holes that were drilled. He was also known for his long-lasting support for his daughters and grandchildren.

Sadly, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's the last year of his life. He made the most of this time enjoying puzzles and Sally's cooking and baking.

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