



Dennis Van Jay Guffey

June 14, 1947 - July 10, 2020

Dennis Guffey died peacefully on July 10, 2020 following his battle with cancer. He was born in Green Castle, Missouri to Clayton Keith Guffey and Maggie Iona (Cooley) Guffey on June 14, 1947 and grew up in Davenport, Iowa. He graduated from Davenport Central High School in 1965 and attended Iowa Wesleyan College. After graduating from the University of Iowa, Dennis served his country as a General's Aide in the U.S. Army in Korea during the Vietnam War.

He and his former spouse Marcia (Gatton) Guffey raised their daughter Angie in Ankeny, during which time Dennis held various leadership positions with several state government agencies in Des Moines. After retirement from state government, Dennis enjoyed working at Barnes and Noble and especially as a volunteer for the central Iowa Planned Parenthood Book Sale, where he spent countless hours volunteering.

Dennis was an avid reader and runner who ran thousands of miles on the Des Moines area trails over the years, finished Grandma's Marathon in Minnesota, and completed a couple of decades worth of Dam to Dam Races in Des Moines and lots and lots of Bix Races in Davenport. In recent years, Dennis also completed El Camino de Santiago in Spain and a trip to Ireland.

His love of the Iowa Hawkeyes and years of road trips to football games in Iowa City didn't keep him from rooting for UNI, ISU and Drake. He was also a die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan who still managed to enjoy the Iowa Cubs. Those who were lucky enough to know Denny, found him to be a loyal friend

who was an exceptional listener, despite his hearing challenges. He made lifelong friends throughout every stage of his life, loved watching/talking sports with those friends and appreciated the arts. However, his favorite activity was spending time with and supporting his grandkids.

Dennis is survived by daughter, Angela (Greg) Luttenegger and grandchildren, Kaylen and Carson Luttenegger all of Ankeny; brother, Gordon (Karen) Guffey and sister, Carol Ney both of Davenport; sister, Debra Young-Guffey of California; along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law Ron Ney.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Tower Park (to allow for social distancing) 4900 Hickman Road in Des Moines on Sunday, August 9th at 1:00 pm. A private (due to Covid) Military Burial will take place at the Rock Island Arsenal in the Quad Cities with a public Celebration of Life for any friends and family on Friday, August 14th on the outdoor patio of The Circle Tap in Davenport from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Central Iowa Trail Association, Planned Parenthood Book Sale, Hospice of your choice, or in lieu of memorial contributions please consider going fishing or contacting a friend you haven't seen in a while.

Condolences may be expressed at [dyiamondmemorial.com/obituaries](https://www.diamondmemorial.com/obituaries).

Cemetery Details

Rock Island National Cemetery

Bldg 118
Moline, IL 61265

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **9**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Tower Park
4900 Hickman Road
Des Moines, IA 50310

Celebration of Life

AUG **14**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

The Circle Tap
1345 W. Locust Street
Davenport, IA 52804

Tribute Wall

MO

“ *Very nice tribute to Dennis today. One of the good guys; a servant leader, fun lover, modest soul. He had to keep the old CETA crowd from getting kicked out of the Ironman Inn twice a year for years. We teased him about reading the big binder of regs to us at every meeting, but he said he knew we'd never read them so... God bless ;you and your family, Dennis.
Mary O'Keefe and Jeff Nall*

Mary okeefe - August 09, 2020 at 05:59 PM

JP

“ *Dennis was one of the kindest souls I've ever had the privilege to know. His humor and giving nature are true examples of the best qualities in humanity. Every person who knew him was better for it.*

Jackie Patrick - August 09, 2020 at 11:22 AM

CM

“ *I will never stop loving one of the best friends anyone could ever wish for. I don't think my mourning will ever stop. I, no joke, almost called him two days ago. He stood me up, when I was down, more times than I can count. I am grateful that the last time we talked, we both stated our love, as brothers. I lost a blood brother in 1988, and have not hurt so much since. He found joy in life. I cling to that.*

Cory Mellinger - August 09, 2020 at 02:22 AM

AV

“ We had the privilege of knowing and working with Dennis on the Planned Parenthood book sale. What a kind, gentle man - always the voice of reason. His dedication to our Bookworks family will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences to his family.

Ron and Ann Victor

Ann Victor - August 07, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ I am very sorry to learn of your loss. I have very good memories of working with Dennis when I served in the Iowa legislature. He was a true public servant, working for the common good of Iowa . My condolences

Ralph Rosenberg - August 05, 2020 at 05:43 PM

MG

“ I met Dennis while volunteering at PPH Bookworks. He was always so kind and helpful. He would e mail me when my area was getting overloaded with puzzles. We later found out during conversations that we lived in the same apartment complex, this led to a great conversation about the bats that get into the building during the winter and his encounter with a big bat on the wall!!! RIP Dennis, God bless, you will be missed, !

Myra Gipson

Myra Gipson - August 04, 2020 at 05:26 PM

KS

“ Dennis was an amazing man and strong leader. He was always a joy to talk and laugh with. I will always remember his wonderful smile and open heart. He was one of the best volunteers at bookworks and I learned a lot from him. I will miss seeing him but he will always be in my heart.

Kirk Stump - August 04, 2020 at 05:12 PM

DT

“ I first met Dennis in July 2011, when I started to volunteer at Planned Parenthood Bookworks. We got along great right away. Sometimes I would be the first one there at 8am to open, he would usually be the second one in. So we had a good talk for 10 minutes each time. When I was having my knee problems and then after knee and back surgery he was always very concerned for my health. He would send me an email to check up on me, he was a most thoughtful and caring person. I missed his talk about his trip to Spain but I asked him some questions later about it, that was one incredible thing he did. I was most impressed! When I was working he would always come over to say hi, how are you doing, what's going on, etc. I always liked talking with him, he was a deep and thoughtful man. The last time we talked was at Bookworks about the third week of March before closing. We had our usual good conversation. Dennis I will miss you my good friend! I can still hear your voice today. RIP Sir.

Denny Thompson - August 04, 2020 at 04:43 PM

LK

“ Dennis was a kind, gentle soul who truly cared about others and will be missed by many. We were colleagues in state government decades ago and friends ever since. I'll miss our occasional lunches and seeing you at PPH Bookworks. Rest In Peace, Dennis. Unfortunately, I will be out of state and miss the Celebration of Dennis' Life at Tower Park. My condolences to Dennis' family. He talked proudly of each of you.

Linda Kading - August 02, 2020 at 09:55 AM

SR

“ Worked with Dennis for a few years at IDEED and ran across him a few times after our state paths diverged. He was a first rate human being in every way and will be missed.

Steve Rosenow - August 02, 2020 at 09:52 AM

SJ

“ I so enjoyed working with Dennis at the Iowa Department of Economic Development, and later seeing him at Barnes & Noble. He truly cared about Iowa and Iowans, and always went the extra mile to help people or to make sure a job was done right. He will be missed.

Susan Judkins - July 31, 2020 at 08:53 PM

MG

“ I can't add to what so many people have included. The multitude of kind words are a testament to a life well lived. If all of us could follow in Dennis's footsteps the world would be a better place.

Michele Guinn - July 28, 2020 at 09:33 PM

CW

“ Having been given the "privilege" of being grouped with Dennis in golf foursome just before the wedding of Angie to her now husband Greg Luttenegger, it was obvious right away that he was a kind genuine soul. Seeing Dennis swing by the Luttenegger household was always a highlight of many trips to Ankeny.

The more I knew Dennis the more I respected him, but he achieved Legend status last year with his trip to Spain to hike the Camino trail.

He was the type of deep-thinking, big-hearted, gentle spirits that are needed in the world and will be greatly missed.

Our hearts go out to the Guffey and Luttenegger families.

The Wall Family

Chris Wall - July 21, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Dennis Van Jay Guffey.*



July 20, 2020 at 11:18 AM

CM

“ *Our big "kahuna"! You were absolutely the best mentor I could3have asked for. Our days at IDEED were the best. I am honored to have been a part of your team but more importantly to have had you as a very dear friend and confidant. RIP Guff!!*

Cathie Mckim - July 16, 2020 at 11:38 AM

Ron
Parker

“ *Dennis is one of the kindest people I've ever met -- inside and outside the Iowa Capitol.*

He was kind.

He was funny.

And he had common sense.

Rest in peace, Dennis. Rest in peace.

Ron Parker

Ron Parker - July 15, 2020 at 02:49 PM

DM

My most sincere sympathies to the Luttenegger family for the loss of your dad and grandfather. I know he was well loved by you all. May he Rest In Peace and May your memories of him bring you many smiles and great comfort.

Dawn and Andrew Martin

Dawn Martin - July 15, 2020 at 07:04 PM

CE

“ *Dennis was a gentle soul, greeting every challenge in his state government career with professionalism and his understated humor. He was a loyal friend and colleague who earned the respect and confidence of those of us lucky enough to learn from him and be his friend. Rest in peace, dear friend. Cynthia Eisenhauer*

Cynthia P Eisenhauer - July 15, 2020 at 02:43 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jim Chudomel - July 15, 2020 at 02:09 PM

JC

We shared 55 years of friendship and it was far too short a time. Glad to have had 2 weeks in Ireland, walking in the rain. He was always a blast and always loyal. Deeply missed.

Jim Chudomel - July 20, 2020 at 09:20 AM

WA

“ *I volunteered with Dennis at Planned Parenthood. He was my friend and I will miss him terribly. The bookworks will never be the same. He was our calming voice in many ways. My heartfelt prayers go out to the family. You are in my thoughts.*

Wanda Anderson - July 15, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ *Hey bother Guff, RIP ... like Debbie and John mentioned, always a wonderful person with a great smile, even now ! I only had classes for 3 years with you, but I'm sure we were told more than once to "keep it down" you guys. Sorry I didn't know your family or have any pics to share, again like John said, Top Shelf al the way, Dennis*

jim doty

Jim Doty - July 15, 2020 at 12:32 PM

BH

“ To one of the best bosses I’ve ever had the pleasure of working with. Great man and such a gentle man. Good drinkin buddy too! Much love to you Angie and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. RIP Guff. Sending hugs to you 🤗

Barb Hartman - July 14, 2020 at 11:25 PM

LL

“ Truly one of the most phenomenal people I've ever known. Always grateful for the lifetime of memories! A role model and an inspiration to all. Much love Uncle Denny, aka The Gov. ♡

LeAnn Leibold - July 14, 2020 at 10:25 PM

CS

“ A real friend and great Cardinal brother! I will always have him in my prayers!! Chuck Schlichting.

Chuck Schlichting - July 14, 2020 at 07:58 PM

FF

“ RIP Guff! It was always an adventure being “one of the guys” with you and our IDED cohorts. We will miss you dearly but assume Brice is waiting to lead you astray in the “afterlife”. Our thoughts go out to Angie and your family. You will always be remembered with a smile. XOXO

Fran Fleck

Fran Fleck - July 14, 2020 at 05:42 PM

PW

“ What a loss! Not only for the Bookworks, but for the world. We are surely going to miss his gentle kindnesses.

Pat Westphal - July 14, 2020 at 05:30 PM



“ *RIP Guffey... one of the best bosses I ever had the pleasure to work with. Lots of laughter while completing important work. You will be missed!*

Jody Leinen Benz - July 14, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ *I knew Dennis through the Planned Parenthood Book Sale and Bookworks. His dedication to that cause was intense as he was not a halfway man. He immersed himself thouroughly in what he cared about. Dennis was kind, caring and a master of diplomacy. He always showed concern for someone else rather than talk about himself. How we will soldier on without him seems impossible right now. Rest in peace, my friend.*
Judy Guinn

Judy Guinn - July 14, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ *God bless, Guff; top shelf all the way.*

john wright - July 14, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ *RIP Dennis, you were one of the good ones at the agency.*

tim - July 14, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ Denny was a family friend and a man I admired and looked up to. As a kid, I remember his work with the Big Brother/Big Sister organization. When I was a student at UNI, I joined the college branch of Big Bros. because of this influence. When I returned to DSM later in life, I would often run into Denny around town and it was a highlight to see him and catch up about family and life changes. I almost always saw Denny at the big Book Sale. I will always recall fondly his smile and laughter. And, of course, I want to send my love to his daughter Angie who was a great childhood friend.

Mike Shaw - July 14, 2020 at 11:27 AM

DK

“ I remember Dennis was one of the best of the best at Central High School. He always had a smile and kind word for everyone. Heaven will be a better place because he is there. To Angie and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Your memories will carry you through this difficult time. I was proud to know such a truly wonderful person. I will never forget him.

Debbie Cook King

Debbie Cook King - July 14, 2020 at 10:49 AM

DS

“ RIP buddy... the softball "wall" will never be the same without you. You're one of the hoid ones.

dave stokka - July 14, 2020 at 10:41 AM

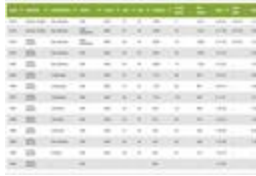
DS

"good ones".

dave stokka - July 14, 2020 at 10:42 AM

TF

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Tony Farrell - July 14, 2020 at 09:47 AM

PN

“ Denny was a great friend. My ex and I spent many vacations with him and Marcia , fishing and sight seeing. I will always have a smile on my face when I think of what a good person he was. I know he will be missed

pat (shaw) Nagel - July 14, 2020 at 09:42 AM

TF

“ A wonderful man who raised an exceptional daughter. So glad I got to know Dennis well and sorry to hear of his passing. Kind hearted and always giving of his time. I'm sure he'll be cheering for the Cardinals and Iowa Cubs!

Tony Farrell - July 14, 2020 at 09:41 AM