



## Dennis George Harris

November 24, 1941 - February 7, 2021

Dennis George Harris (Denny) was born in Culver City, California on November 24th, 1941.

He moved to Bremerton, Washington in 1947; where he lived through his graduation from West High in Bremerton in 1960. Shortly thereafter he joined the United States Army Air Force.

Dennis was part of the first 10,000 volunteer military advisory force to Vietnam (1st MOB, 1960); serving as a USAF Air-traffic Controller. Here he spent 2+ years deployed to Vietnam and the Philippines; making life-long friendships, and having a host of experiences. He witnessed the Dinh Bein Coup of 1963

After returning home from his service, Dennis went on to enter civilian aviation as an Air Traffic Controller - first in California and then moved back to Washington State. He married his first wife Carol (1964-1982), and had three children with her (Jennifer, Tracy, & Eric)

He was a ringleader of the 1981 PATCO Air Traffic Controllers Strike, and subsequently left the Air Traffic Control industry, eventually moving onto pest elimination.

He met and married Karen in 1982, remaining married until his passing. In 2014, Dennis officially adopted Jason as his son.

In mid-2020 Dennis was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer, and passed February 7th, 2021.

He was preceded in death by his parents ( Robert & Almeda Harris, his step-son (Douglas Stiles), and daughter-in-law (Lisa Harris).

He is survived by his wife Karen; his children Jennifer (Paul) Zohn, Tracy (Jennelle) Harris, Eric Harris (Dianne), and Jason (Sarah) Harris, Glen Stiles (Step-Son), and his

numerous grandchildren.

He valued his family, music, travel, talking, cars, and model trains. His favorite saying was "Close Enough for Government Work!" He could be found either on the couch or the deck of his home watching the comings and goings of the bay. He enjoyed listening to music, planning out his model train set, and driving his beloved Jag.

In his last years he and Karen traveled to the British Isles and to Disney World; while enjoying holidays with family. He enjoyed talking about his experiences and his views on the world, culture, mechanics/wood working, and history - as well as the odd game of shuffleboard.

He was admired and appreciated as the man he was, the collections of opinions, thoughts and memories; as well as the big heart that took so many into it.

We love you, Denny, and miss your presence in our lives.

# Comments

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“ karen harris is following this tribute.

karen harris - September 03, 2021 at 02:41 PM

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“ Denny Harris is my father. It is difficult to find the words to describe him and how he impacted me. He loved greatly, unconditionally and had a big heart. He was funny, witty, kind, intelligent and generous. He was patriotic and a Vietnam War Veteran. He always had time for me, whether I was a little girl who needed a hug or a grown woman who needed fatherly words of wisdom. My children loved Grandpa Denny. He was a stabilizing force in my life and in my children's lives, for which I am eternally grateful. The world needs more men like Denny. He has been a rock in my life, and I miss him dearly. I love you, Dad.

Jennifer Zohn - June 25, 2021 at 10:56 PM

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“ Denny there wasn't a subject, I don't believe , that you couldn't comment on with some knowledge. You always liked to talk and share. You loved the cardinals or "red birds" that we had in our yard here and loved just sitting out back and taking it all in just like you did at home. I am so happy you and Karen got to share your dream home and some travels these past few years. But one thing that one could do with you that was very eye opening and heart pumping was car trips with you driving!! Oh my...the fear of the Lord was certainly given to your passengers!!! We always got there okay and got a cardiac workout in the process!!! You will be greatly missed but I know you are loving having some long conversations up in heaven. Rest well with love. ~ Kathy and Drew.



kathy Smith - March 11, 2021 at 08:43 AM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Tracy Harris - March 10, 2021 at 01:36 AM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Tracy Harris - March 10, 2021 at 01:30 AM

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“ I served with Denny in The Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam from 1962 to 1964 with the 1st MOB. We were young and invincible in those days and didn't realize we were in harms way. We had a great time even though we were in the middle of a war with no weapons. After leaving The Air Force, we met again in 1964-1965 in the middle of winter, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, Nevada, where we worked for Leonard (Fitz) Fitzgerald, the last surviving member of the Purple gang from Detroit. We were Keno writers at his Nevada Lodge and pseudo professional gamblers on our time off. In many ways, that was more dangerous than being in the middle of that crazy Asian war. Denny went on to pursue Air Traffic Control and I became a pilot for Flying Tigers, FedEx and Boeing. We met again briefly at his house and then for the last time in Portland, Oregon around 2010 for a reunion of the 1st MOB. It was great to see John Kerns, Leo Schulz, Denny and others whom I can no longer remember. Goodby Denny, it was a great ride and I'll see you at the next reunion.  
Douglas Happ

Doug Happ - March 07, 2021 at 09:02 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Tracy Harris - March 06, 2021 at 10:01 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Harris - March 06, 2021 at 04:10 PM

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“ Dad did have a youthful spirit always looking for a laugh. He taught me some astronomy and enjoyed making things and shooting CO2 rockets and really loved reading Sci-fi books and movies. I think he invented the term “just resting my eyes”. nobody could eat as many peanut butter sandwiches with chocolate milk or a shake. I loved how he always needed a toy around I guess I inherited that too. I have a certain love for cool cars thanks to you and now know that looking for firewood in Washington campgrounds is probably not the best idea as it is scarce and usually wet. I'm very glad we got re-acquainted in these last several years. I will miss your voice and laugh and even hearing those stories you always told! Wish I could have said goodbye in person you were loved! -Signed your daughter Tracy:

Tracy Harris - March 05, 2021 at 11:25 PM

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“ Grandpa had a great sense of humor, a heart of gold and gave great hugs - all the things that make the best grandpa. He had a youthful spirit his whole life. You could hear it in the way he talked and told stories. I remember visiting him growing up, there always seemed to be a lot of peanut butter around - I think grandpa was a fan. And man did he know his astronomy. I wish I had been able to learn more from him. He will be missed dearly, especially in these times when we weren't able to be with him in the end. Thank you grandpa for being a wonderful light in this world. I love you.

**Shannon Bauman** - March 05, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ Dad did have a youthful spirit always looking for a laugh. He taught me some astronomy and enjoyed making things and shooting CO2 rockets and really loved reading Sci-fi books and movies. I think he invented the term “just resting my eyes”. nobody could eat as many peanut butter sandwiches with chocolate milk or a shake. I loved how he always needed a toy around I guess I inherited that too. I have a certain love for cool cars thanks to you and now know that looking for firewood in Washington campgrounds is probably not the best idea as it is scarce and usually wet. I'm very glad we got re-acquainted in these last several years. I will miss your voice and laugh and even hearing those stories you always told! Wish I could have said goodbye in person you were loved! -Signed your daughter Tracy

**Tracy Harris** - March 05, 2021 at 11:16 PM