



Dennis Kougias

OCT 22, 1945 - JAN 11, 2009



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Dennis Kougias

OCT 22, 1945 - JAN 11, 2009

Dennis Kougias, 63, of Mt. Vernon passed away from cancer Sunday, January 11, 2009 at his home. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m, Thursday, January 15, 2009 at Zion Lutheran Church, 439 3rd Avenue South, Clinton, Iowa. Pastor Jennifer Henry will officiate. To pay respect to Dennis, the Iowa Department of Transportation Honor Guard will provide a tribute. Visitation will be prior to the service from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Burial will be in Clinton Lawn Cemetery immediately following the service. The Clinton Chapel Snell-Zornig Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements. Dennis Kougias was born Oct. 22, 1945 in Missouri Valley, Iowa, the son of Thomas G. and Cecil (Conley) Kougias. He enlisted in the Marine Corp in San Diego, California, serving from 1965 to 1968 during the Vietnam War. He also served in The Army Reserves. Dennis began his employment career with the Iowa Department of Transportation in 1969. He attended the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in 1975. On August 26, 1983, he married Debra Forney at Zion Lutheran Church in Clinton, Iowa. He worked for the Iowa Department of Transportation for 31 years. His last position held was District Commander until his retirement, December 31, 2000. After retirement, he worked part-time at Mt. Vernon Bank & Trust Co., and helped care for his step-granddaughter. Denny considered himself very fortunate to be able to help care for Kaylee, who had brought so much joy to his life. He was a great cook, enjoyed helping family and friends, gardening, fishing and the outdoors. He was preceded in death by his parents: Thomas G. and Cecil (Conley) Kougias, three brothers: Dick, Larry and Billy, and two sisters: Betty Brown and Beverly Sorick. Surviving are his loving wife, Debra (Sukut) of Mt. Vernon; step-daughter, Heather Forney and step-granddaughter Kaylee Gates of Mt. Vernon; brother Robert E. Kougias of Omaha, Nebraska; sisters-in-law: Diane Kougias and Therma Kougias, both of Missouri Valley, Iowa, and nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be



Obituary

Dennis Kougias

OCT 22, 1945 - JAN 11, 2009

made to the Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church, 221 First Street NE, Mt. Vernon, IA, 52314 or Hospice of Mercy, 315 18th Ave., Hiawatha, IA 52233. Online condolences may be expressed by visiting www.snellzornig.com. The family expresses a special thank you to the Hospice of Mercy for their loving and tender care of Denny these past few months. They provided comfort, compassion and dignity for Denny and his loved ones.



Tribute Wall

Dennis Kougias

OCT 22, 1945 - JAN 11, 2009

JS

Jean Heady-Spah posted:

I've known Denny since he and Harvey Hickson were Traffic Weight Officers and Denny lived the downstairs apartment at the corner of Highway 1 and North 2nd Street East. Since my husband and I lived kitty-corner across the street, I used to pet sit for Herkie (Siamese cat) and Romona (St. Bernard dog). I have wonderful memories of Denny and the all of the fun we had in those days. I am deeply saddened to learn of his death, but he is at peace and pain-free. My thoughts and deepest sympathies are with his family.

January 10 at 7:00 PM

MB

Mike Benner posted:

I just want to say how sorry I am that Denny's retirement was so short. He always told me to retire as soon as I could. I will miss him!!!! MB

January 10 at 7:00 PM

JC

Joyce Clark posted:

Deb I am sorry for your Loss. Thinkyou may remember when Dennis work withLinn County, he was always professionaland always helpful. even after his promotion of commander, He was alwaysfriendly and stopped in to say hi. Hewas really my favorite investigator that we had in Linn County. Dennis definitely will be missed. I still remember the fun we all had at the ISACmeetings.

January 10 at 7:00 PM

HG

Helen Gray posted:

Deb and family,My prayers are with you at this most difficult hour. I am sorry that I won't be able to make it back from Ohio in time, but please know that you all are in my thoughts. May God's peace be with you.Helen GrayE

January 10 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Dennis Kougias

OCT 22, 1945 - JAN 11, 2009



Lori Niemi posted:

I am so sad to see Denny go. The human in me is reluctant to accept his passing. I thought he would have more time, but it was not to be. Denny was the best neighbor a person could have. He was always willing to help anyone who needed it. I have many wonderful memories of Denny to sustain me. One is when he showed up at our door dressed as Santa. He thought our grandchildren were there, but they had not arrived yet. I asked him to pose for some photos so we could email them to the grands, and he agreed that we could do that. I'm telling you, they were so excited when they saw "Santa" photographed at Grammie's house. It made Christmas even more special for the children. That was so like Denny...always thinking of others and how to make their lives better. Denny and I did have common enemies, however...GROUNDS QUIRRELS! One day one of the little critters actually got into our house. In a panic, I ran to Denny for help. He was "Mr. Prepared" and handed me a trap to catch the critter. He even knew the best bait to lure them....sunflower seeds. Soon the little guy was confined and transported to the Pal. I later wrote a story about this incident called LUCKY, THE GROUND SQUIRREL. Again, Denny was the hero. We continued to borrow Denny's trap and caught and relocated 21 ground squirrels one summer. Denny was superb at inventing his own kind of traps to get the little nuisances. He was so proud every time he thought of another way to catch them. Now every time I see a ground squirrel, Denny will come to mind. Denny is still with us on many levels...when we show kindness to another, that's Denny's spirit coming through to us. When we show a helpful attitude towards a neighbor, that's Denny prompting us to do so. We can still talk to Denny and share our thoughts with him. Some of us even believe that he knows this and can guide us and protect us from another realm. I believe this. Lastly, I have words for Denny's family, especially Debbie, Heather and precious little Kaylee...I grieve for you. Denny's struggle is over, and he is out of pain and at peace...Allow yourselves to grieve and to move through the stages of grief until you can come to the point of acceptance and therefore reach a state of peace for yourselves. There is no permanence to anything living. But the love and memories you have for Denny will bring you a lot of comfort and can be called up for those "hard" days. We will keep Denny alive by celebrating the way he lived, for he was truly a very good man. My heart, thoughts and prayers are for you now and always.

January 10 at 7:00 PM



Lyle Woodard posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Denny's passing. We worked together for many years at MVE, he was someone that we all looked to for direction and support. He will be missed greatly. Lyle Woodard, District Commander MVE, Retired

January 10 at 7:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Dennis Kougias

OCT 22, 1945 - JAN 11, 2009

BW

Bette Williams posted:

I'm an "old" secretary from the Ottumwa DOT office and for a few weeks I would come to Cedar Rapids and fill in in the office when they were without a secretary. I'm sure I gave him a hard time but I enjoyed working for him. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Yes, Hospice is a wonderful thing to have. My husband died Jan. 17, 2008 and we would not have been able to make it without them. Take care of yourself.

January 10 at 7:00 PM

MD

Mr And Mrs James Dinsmore posted:

We are so sorry to read of Denny's passing. We had heard that he was ill and we just could not believe it. It must have been very fast. We stopped and visited with Denny last year when we were on our vacation heading to another town in Iowa. Denny was babysitting and we stopped to visit for an hour or so. It was so good to visit with Denny. I, Jim, graduated with Denny and really enjoyed seeing him again. My wife Linda knew Denny also from living in Mo. Valley also. Denny was very dedicated to his step-granddaughter. From visiting with him, he really enjoyed sharing his time with her. He told us a little of his life and showed us his yard that he enjoyed. We did not get to visit with Denny very long and I wish we could have visited longer now that he has left us. He was a special guy and we are glad to have had him as a class mate and friend. Our thoughts are with you all.

January 10 at 7:00 PM

WR

Wesley And Charrisse Reynolds posted:

Deb, You and your family have our deepest condolences on the loss of Denny. He was the best of neighbors and a truly devoted and proud Grandpa. If you need anything from us please do NOT HESITATE to ask and we will be there. With thoughts and prayers, Wesley, Charrisse, Aiden and Jude

January 10 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dennis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit