



Benjamin Lee Dunkin

October 25, 1927 - January 16, 2024

Benjamin Lee Dunkin passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on January 16, 2024. He was the third child of Fred Dunkin and Anna Linn, born on October 25, 1927, in Essex, Iowa. He was married to Mary Ann Hendrickson, daughter of Marion and Grace (Groff) Hendrickson on June 26, 1949, in the United Methodist Church in Nodaway, Iowa. It was a double wedding with her sister Deloris Hendrickson and C. Marvin Peterson.

Benny Dunkin graduated from Villisca High School in Villisca, Iowa, in May of 1946. He was a member of the Future Farmers Association and was among 75 Iowa boys who received the "Iowa Farmer Degree," the highest award of the Future Farmers of America. He was also a member of the Montgomery County 4-H Club. He enlisted in the Air Force, on June 12, 1946.

After Ben and Mary Ann married, their first home was in Rapid City, South Dakota, where Ben was stationed. Their second home was at Marks AFB, Nome, Alaska, where they celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary. Their first child, Ronda Lee, was born at Ladd AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska. Their second child, Denese Ann, was born at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Their third daughter, Lisa Renee', was born in Sacramento, California.

Ben retired as a Chief Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force where he was a radar specialist with the Airways and Air Communications

Service. (AACS) He maintained air traffic control/radar equipment. He retired on August 10th, 1972, at Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda, Michigan, after serving 26 years of active duty. He had been stationed at various bases in the United States and overseas: Texas, Florida, South Dakota, Kentucky, Mississippi, California, Michigan, Alaska (2 tours), Newfoundland, Japan, and Monkey Mountain, Da Nang, Vietnam. He continued his service in the reserves for four more years.

Ben earned several military decorations during his 26 years of active duty. He earned the Bronze Star, AF Commendation Medal with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, AF Good Conduct Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct with 5 Loops, American Theatre Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award w/V/ Device/Bronze and Oak Leaf Cluster, AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, USAF NCO Academy Graduate Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, United States Air Force Service Commemorative Medal and the U.S. Armed Forces Retired Service Commemorative Medal.

In 1972, Ben and family retired to Fort Collins, Colorado. Ben was employed as maintenance superintendent for the educational media department of Poudre School District before his retirement in 1990. He was named one of the Employees of the Year for the school district in 1983. He was a member of Christ United Methodist Church since August of 1972 where he maintained the sound system for the church. He and Mary Ann were active members and attended Sunday School and church most Sundays if they weren't on a road trip, visiting their many relatives and friends around the country, or traveling abroad or to Hawaii with their dearest friends, Dick and Tammy Marple.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents, brother, sister, and his dear wife of

62 years, Mary Ann. His brother, Lynn William Dunkin and his sister, Evelyn Elisabeth Dunkin Davis.

Ben is survived by his three daughters, Ronda Rastler (Dan) of Roseville, CA, Denese Van Dyne (Brian Beasley) of Loganville, GA, Lisa Martin (Scott) of Fort Collins, CO; Four grandchildren, Eric Rastler (Jennifer) of Buford, GA, Christina (Rastler) Seals (David) of Roseville, CA, Melinda (Martin) Scinto (Michael) of Elmhurst, IL and Lucas Martin of Denver, CO. Ben was delighted by his three great-grandchildren, Dylan and Caitlyn Seals of Roseville, CA, and Mary Rose Scinto of Elmhurst, IL. He is also survived by his nieces, Rosamond (Davis) Tillman of Shenandoah, IA, and Cheryl (Dunkin) Kaufman of Alexandria, VA.

Our family is grateful to the doctors and nursing staff in the ICU at PVH for giving Ben wonderful care and support for our family. We are also grateful for all the prayers and positive thoughts that were said for him by so many relatives and friends.

Visitation will be on Thursday, February 1, from 4-6 p.m. at Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, CO 80524. His celebration of life service will be on Friday, February 2, 11 a.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 301 E. Drake Rd. with a reception following. Internment will be at Grandview Cemetery, for family only, following the reception.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution may be made to Christ United Methodist Church Roof Fund, 301 E. Drake Rd. Fort Collins, CO 80525.
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=8XYKM3SVCZKRA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Funeral Service

FEB 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Christ United Methodist Church
301 E. Drake Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Burial

FEB 2. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (MT)

Grandview Cemetery
1900 W. Mountain Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall



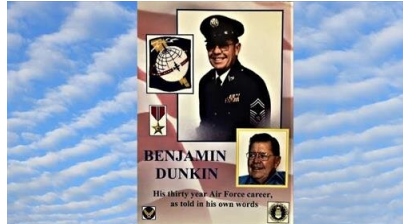
“ *Bohlander Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Benjamin Lee Dunkin*



Bohlander Funeral Chapel - January 25, 2024 at 11:00 AM



“ *Bohlander Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Benjamin Lee Dunkin*



Bohlander Funeral Chapel - January 23, 2024 at 09:36 AM

SG

“ *Lisa & Family,*

We are so so sorry to hear about Ben's passing. To say everyone loved Ben would be an understatement. Ben was a friend to all whether you were 6 or 60, Ben was always there to greet you with a smile and hug. Since our parents have passed, when Bailey was little she thought Ben was everyone's grandpa, not just Lucas and Melinda's! Ben always thought Lucas and Bailey would get together some day cause she always bossed him around growing up.

Love to you all,

Suzie, Ethan, Bailey, Max-Gannett



Sue Gannett - February 01, 2024 at 02:45 PM

JW

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Josh Wasinger - January 30, 2024 at 04:53 PM

TC

“ *Very proud to have him as my Great Uncle, gave me great advice before I went active duty USAF.*



Todd Carr - January 24, 2024 at 06:58 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - January 23, 2024 at 09:40 AM

JK

“ *I'm so sorry for the loss of Ben. After meeting him a few times, I knew he was special. He always had a kind, friendly greeting. It's tough to lose a man that made life better for so many people. I'm glad your memories will lift your spirits.*

Janet Kask - January 19, 2024 at 09:16 PM

LM

Thank you, Janet! He was a special guy for sure! Thank you for your kind comments!💕

Lisa Martin - January 23, 2024 at 10:46 PM

RT

Uncle Benny was my Hero for a lifetime. I was so blessed that I kept in touch with him and his family all these years. I will miss our monthly phone calls. My heart is so sad. Rosamond Tillman.

Rosamond E Tillman - January 24, 2024 at 08:37 PM