



Denis Francis McBriarty

March 24, 1943 - January 31, 2017

Denis Francis McBriarty passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 31, 2017, at age 73, in his home in Apopka, FL.

Denis was born March 24, 1943 in Saint John, NB, Canada to Joseph and Ena (Higgins) McBriarty. He attended St. Malachy's School in Saint John, and later took courses at Vancouver City College, Simon Fraser University, and the University of British Columbia. He met Ann Michele McBriarty (Rehders) in Vancouver, BC, Canada in 1975, and they were married on October 9, 1982 in Bridgewater, NS, Canada.

Denis had a knack for technology and was an entrepreneur, establishing businesses in home security and retail across Canada before moving to Apopka in 1984. There, Denis became a residential real estate agent in the Wekiva area. Neighbors will remember his fondness for "driveway mining" in his retirement, scouring yard sales for deals every Friday and Saturday morning.

Denis was an avid photographer and aviation geek, spending several weeks each year shooting photos across North America, Europe, and sunny Sint Maarten. He was proud of his vivid photos of aircraft arriving against the Caribbean scenery of Maho Beach, and he had a knack for capturing everyone's best smiles. His photos graced magazine covers and calendars,

and they received hundreds of thousands of views online.

Denis was permanently young in heart and spirit. He could strike up a laughter-filled conversation with anyone he met, resulting in lasting friendships around the world. He was genuine and caring, enriching the lives of those he befriended. His witty, gregarious soul is deeply missed.

A private cremation service will be held Sunday, February 5, at DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory in Maitland, FL. Per his wishes, his ashes will be scattered later this year in Saint John, NB, Canada; Vancouver, BC, Canada; and Sint Maarten.

Denis is survived by his wife Ann Michele McBriarty of Apopka, FL; daughter Sondra Hallman (Seth) of Longwood, FL; son Dr. Martin McBriarty (Ellen) of Richland, WA; grandson Lucian Hallman of Longwood, FL; sister Mary Gillen of Saint John, NB, Canada; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to the Philippines Orphanage Fund, c/o Lyle Kooima. <http://www.gofundme.com/buildduyan>

Attachments area

Tribute Wall

MU

“ *Sinceres condolences to the family...*

I met Denis and Michele last year when they rented a place form me in St- Maarten during the Henneken regatta. I had no idea when they arrived that we were going to hit it off and build a friendship like we did. I didn't have a car at the time and they took me under their wings and took me to all the concerts. We had a blast!. We celebrated his birthday at the Red Piano and there I heard his famous phrase: " cake is good".

What a unique character our Denis was...HE was witty, creative, smart, compassionate, loyal, open and friendly to a lot of people, that's for sure...

He called me on the 29th, from the airport, to tell me that they'd be back in no time, and said" we'll see you soon" . They were booked to stay with me again.

It was a shock this morning when I heard of his passing... lots of love... and gratitude for the sheer Spirit you graced us with Denis.

Muguette

Muguette - February 05, 2017 at 07:22 PM

AY

“ We have been going to Sint Maarten for the past 20 years, about 10 years ago we were watching this 'guy' taking pictures with all this camera equipment of planes on Maho Beach. I struck up a conversation with him, and he introduced my wife and I to Michele. That week we went to dinner with them a couple of times, spent time in some of the casino's. His wit and humor was very genuine, seems like he never met a stranger. After that, we would come down every year for the Regatta, and always met up with him, whether it would be at the Yacht Club or Caravanserai. He turned me on to his website, and I followed it religiously. He stood out in a crowd, not because he was tall, but his hat and pony tail were his signature, and he wanted to be called 'Big Den'! We will be going down again for the Regatta and will surely miss him and his stories. Michele and family we send our best to you during this difficult time, love to you and your family.

May you soar to highest of heights of the planes you took pictures of.....RIP, my friend

Alan & Suzanne Young (reddog824c@aol.com)

Alan Young - February 05, 2017 at 02:01 PM

MF

“ *Mary Beth And Family lit a candle in memory of Denis Francis McBriarty*



Mary Beth and family - February 05, 2017 at 08:52 AM

CH

“ Michele, Sondra, Martin and families. Please know my thoughts are with you during these most difficult days. Denis lived life to the fullest and always kept his childhood home close to his heart. Therefore we were all fortunate to be able to spend time with him and all of you through the years. He will be missed!

Cathy Howlett - February 04, 2017 at 10:09 PM

MI

“ Michelle lit a candle in memory of Denis Francis McBriarty



Michelle - February 04, 2017 at 08:24 PM

RE

“ Dear Michelle, Martin and family,
We were all so saddened to hear of Denis' passing. I (Rose Ann) saw him not long ago and our visit brought back so many memories of happy times as we were raising our boys. Of course, he was filled with love and pride, as always, as he spoke of his beautiful family. He always had a smile and a story to share. He will be greatly missed.
Please know our thoughts, prayers and sympathy are with you at this sad time. May sweet memories of his love and devotion comfort you in the days ahead. We are here should you ever need anything.
With love, sympathy and friendship always,
Rose Ann, Bill, Will and Rob

Rose Ann Eriov - February 03, 2017 at 11:27 AM