



Dennis "Bear" C. Hamel

October 11, 1949 - January 22, 2024

Dennis "Bear" C. Hamel, beloved husband, step-father, grandfather and Friend to many, passed away peacefully at Advent Health Hospice, surrounded by his family, on Monday, January 22, 2024, at the age of 74. He is survived by his Wife, Kathy Wassum-Hamel, Brothers Ronald and Bernie Hamel, Sister in law- Jayna Hamel, several Cousins, Nieces and Nephews, Brother-in-law, George Royal, Sister on law, Eva Grace Royal, Sisters in law, Debbie and Joe Russell, and Tricia and Bill Barr, Step children, Dale, Tara, Leah and Marc, and 3 Grandchildren, Lily, Nicholas and Emerson, He touched the lives of so many, with his Career in the Navy for 21 years as MS1. He graduated from Edgewater High School in 1968. It was there that he earned the nickname Bear, for his big burly appearance, as he was the Football assistant. It stuck with him his entire life. After retiring from the Navy, He went to College on the GI Bill, and earned an undergraduate degree from Troy State University, and a Masters Degree in Counseling and Psychology, from Columbia College. After retiring from the Navy, He worked for Orange County at DCF and Greater Oaks Village. When retiring from these positions, his favorite place of employment was at Publix in Baldwin Park. He loved meeting new people and seeing old friends that he had lost touch with during his Navy deployments. He worked there until becoming ill last December. During his life, he was a Coach for baseball and football, made hundreds of friends, and took care of his Mother and Aunt at the end of their lives.

After College, Dennis "Bear" Hamel began working in the Kitchen at the

Orlando Naval Training Center, where he had been in boot camp many years before. When they were shut down, he worked again for his Navy Boss in the Kitchen of Goodwill of Orlando, cooking and training disabled Veterans in cooking and cleaning.

The Funeral is on Tuesday, January 30, at 10:00 AM at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, 526 N. Park Ave.in Winter Park, FL 32789. DeGusipe Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Father Walsh will be the officiant. Flowers and Condolences can be sent to 2258 Howard Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789.

In lieu of Flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association, in Dennis "Bears" Hamel's name. There will be a reception at the church upstairs in the main office, and we invite you all to attend, and share "Bear" stories.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 30. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall

LI

“ *I love you pipeir I miss you -Your granddaughter Lily*

Lily - November 01, 2024 at 03:08 PM

TA

“ *Mr. Dennis Rest in Heaven. We didn't stay in touch, but your gratitude and kindness will forever be in my heart. Thank you.*

Tahesha - February 11, 2024 at 11:38 AM

DS

“ *Thank you Mr. Dennis for the kindness and care that you showed us kids at Greater Oaks Village. Sending love and healing energy to your loved ones. May you rest in peace Mr. Dennis.*

Dora Soto - February 10, 2024 at 06:26 PM

MS

“ *Ready easy big guy. Never a time I didn't enjoy your presence.*

mario seabrook - February 10, 2024 at 06:12 PM

GR

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



George Royal - January 27, 2024 at 09:49 AM

LL

“ Love, Natalie, David, Ethan, and Liam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Bear" C. Hamel.

Love, Natalie, David, Ethan, and Liam - January 27, 2024 at 12:24 AM

LL

“ Love, Natalie, David, Ethan, and Liam purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Dennis "Bear" C. Hamel.



Love, Natalie, David, Ethan, and Liam - January 27, 2024 at 12:24 AM

TF

“ The Gilbert Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Bear" C. Hamel.

The Gilbert Family - January 26, 2024 at 09:10 AM

TF

“ The Gilbert Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dennis "Bear" C. Hamel.



The Gilbert Family - January 26, 2024 at 09:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - January 25, 2024 at 08:25 AM

RH

I Love you Bear, and I'll see you later! -Rock T. Hurst

Rock T. Hurst - January 25, 2024 at 06:48 PM

NC

Bear could always light up every room he entered with joy, love, and laughter. With so much power to touch so many lives on Earth, I can only imagine the countless ways he can do that from Heaven.

Natalie Cowles - January 27, 2024 at 03:41 PM

LI

I love you Pipeir! I miss you - your granddaughter Lily

lily - November 01, 2024 at 03:10 PM