



Dennis James Casey

September 15, 1941 - August 3, 2021

Dennis James Casey, “Denny” and “DenDen”
September 15, 1941 – August 3, 2021

Dennis Casey had a twinkle in his eye, a receptive face, and a smile that lit up the room. He was fun-loving, witty, lived with gusto and had a contagious laugh we will always remember. His priorities were his faith and his family. He had a heart for people and a way of making each feel special. He was a kind, generous, and a man of high morals and standards.

“Denny” was born on September 15, 1941 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Howard and Florence Casey and grew up there with his three siblings. After his dad died early in his childhood, he worked numerous jobs to help the family. Despite his busy schedule, a coach encouraged him to try out for the basketball team at Elder High School in Cincinnati. Ultimately, this led him to come sight unseen to Rollins College in Central Florida on a basketball scholarship where he was soon chasing after a Georgia Peach in psychology class. “Bulldog”, as they affectionately called him, and his beloved Georgia Peach, Virginia, married after college, and made a deal with each other...she wouldn't have to go to Cincinnati, and he wouldn't have to go to Waycross, and they settled close to Rollins in beautiful Winter Park.

After college, Dennis was blessed with a great opportunity in wholesale

distribution at Sta-Rite Industries under the tutelage of Quentin Bittle. His hard work and creativity resulted in great success covering and traveling the Southeast, and wonderful family trips with the company. As his career accelerated, he had a significant series of promotion opportunities including at corporate headquarters in Wisconsin. But after 18 years of “corporate bliss” and significant time on the road, he declined and transitioned 180 degrees to real estate & development. He joined Florida Ranch Lands, the company famous for assembling the land that is Disney World. He brokered mainly land tracts which led to land development and was there for 30 years. He continued up to his last months in residential development using his uncanny eye for beauty and space along with his bent toward entrepreneurship to put together unique real estate projects. His creativity, vision, and meticulous attention to detail can be seen throughout Central Florida.

Dennis was a devout follower of Jesus and a devoted member of St. Mary Magdalen (40 years) and St. Margaret Mary (20 years) during his time in Central Florida. Dennis faithfully attended daily mass and daily prayed for his family and friends. Dennis and his beloved Virginia enjoyed visiting family and traveling with friends, but their favorite escape was New Smyrna Beach, the hub for great family holidays and reunions. One year they had as many as 45 family members for Christmas, playing football on the beach and the traditional throwing of wadded balls of Christmas wrapping paper. “Denny” played a lot of tennis before “new” knees and hips, was a gourmet chef, enjoyed creating and working in the yard, dabbled in antiques, and so enjoyed his Friday afternoon lunch bunch friends.

Dennis is survived and loved by his wife of 60 years, Virginia Sands Casey, and three children and their spouses, Virginia and Chip Brookhart of Atlanta; Karen and Anderson Cannon of Atlanta; and Dennis James (Jimmy), Jr. and Tara Casey of Charlotte. “DenDen” has proudly passed on his legacy to eight jasper grandchildren: Casey Brookhart O’Neal and husband Chris O’Neal,

Smith Wildman Brookhart V, Stewart Arthur Brookhart, Anderson Trice Cannon, Ella Sands Cannon, Anderson Colar Brookhart, Norah Ann Casey and his special and beloved, "CC" Caroline Delaney Casey. He is survived by his siblings: older sister, Maureen Casey Finn of Cincinnati, and younger siblings, Terence Howard Casey of Cincinnati and Nancy Casey Kerstetter of Louisville, OH; his sister in law, Sandra Hester of Winter Park, FL; and by many cousins, nieces, and nephews, all of whom he loved dearly.

A Celebration of Life Mass will be held at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Winter Park on Saturday, August 14 at 11am. Live streaming is available through the church's website: <https://stmargaretmary.org/funeral-mass-livestream/>.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes for any contributions to be made in Dennis' memory to St. Margaret Mary Church or Rollins College Athletics.

The family of Dennis James Casey invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

AUG **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

CR

“ *Virginia and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Rest assured Dennis is in the arms of God.*
Marty and Sue Crean

Crean - August 14, 2021 at 02:00 PM

SD

“ *Dearest Virginia and all the Casey Family! We were so saddened to hear that Dennis had left us here on earth. Ever since the evening our two first grade boys were running around the cafeteria at St. Mary Magdalene and introduced us, we have valued your friendship. Please know that we will pray for you for healing and strength.*
Shelley and Terry Dittmer

Shelley and Terry Dittmer - August 14, 2021 at 12:58 PM

IC

“ *I worked with Dennis 40 years ago at Sta-Rite where he, Mr. Bittle, Tim Tyler and Jesse were the lifeblood of the Southeast Division. He was a great boss and was loved by his employees and distributors alike. You'd be hard pressed to find a nicer, funnier, or more caring person. My sincerest sympathy to the Casey family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*
Ilene Carr

Ilene Carr - August 11, 2021 at 04:00 PM

KK

“ Virginia and family, Don and I and the whole Kammer family send their sincere sympathy to you on the death of Denny. We were with you last about two years ago in Cincinnati. It was great to catch up with your lives. My memories go back to childhood and all the great fun the Casey clan and Byrne clan had almost every other week. Dad Byrne tried to be a second father after Uncle Casey died. We had some fun trips to New Orleans together also. We were like one big family. In reading all the tributes it sounds like Denny had a wonderful life and had his priorities really right ,God, family and what can I do to make the world better.
We are donating in his name to Doctors Without Borders. They are saving the lives of children from death due to malnutrition in the country of the Sudan ,Africa. His big heart will be beating through these children.

Kathleen Kammer - August 11, 2021 at 02:57 PM

SD

“ I am so blessed to have been just a small part of Denny’s life. He was part of the multitude of “parents” that took an interest in my life and I am forever grateful for every moment and memory. I know he and Mom and Tracy are living it up. Much love to my Casey family.
Susie Cooper Derrick
Jim Cooper and Jane DuVall’s daughter

Susie Derrick - August 10, 2021 at 10:09 PM

JC

“ No matter where you all are, he will be watching over you. He sure was a kind, generous, and accomplished man who loved his family. Let the memories always be comforting.

Thinking of you,
Janis & Dan Conklin

Janis Conklin - August 09, 2021 at 01:21 PM

JC

“ I don't think I can add much to what has already been posted except we go back 60 years. We met at Rollins where Dennis was on a basketball scholarship and I was on a baseball scholarship. I was one year older and we were fraternity brothers, During those early times we lived the good life even though neither of us had any money. We had many memories of the Winter Park Racquet Club Friday night dinners and some tennis Saturday or Sunday. As previously stated by others Dennis was a great family man and had the girl of his dreams in Virginia. I remember when " Little Virginia" was born and how proud he was (I think he secretly wanted to name her "Little Dennis")

Virginia and family, my heart goes out to you and my prayers are with you. I will miss a good friend that I shared many memories with
Moose Cooper

Jim Cooper - August 09, 2021 at 10:15 AM

LR

“ I was blessed to have shared many memories at Sta-Rite with Dennis. He was always a joy to be around. Prayers for the family. God brought home an angel. Lucia Reid

lucia reid - August 08, 2021 at 08:47 PM

JG

“ Prayers for the Casey family at this difficult time. I worked with Dennis for years at Sta-Rite and he was a great boss and family man. Great memories of work trips to many locations in FL. He enriched every life he touched.

Judy Greene - August 08, 2021 at 01:10 PM

BB

“ DENNIS ALWAYS HAD A SMILE ON HIS FACE. LOVED SEEING HIM AT THE ANNUAL GROVE PARTY. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO VIRGINIA AND THE FAMILY. RIP DENNIS.

BILL BIEBERBACH - August 08, 2021 at 09:30 AM

TM

“ Virginia ..sending love..what an amazing life you & Dennis had together..💖 Toasy™

Toasy Martin - August 07, 2021 at 04:34 PM

MM

“ Virginia,
I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort and bless you and your family during this difficult time.
Mel Moore Class of 60.

Mel Moore - August 07, 2021 at 01:56 PM

DK

Virginia and family, I am so sorry for your great loss. He was a gem of a gentleman and friend. I will truly miss “my pew pal”. I have been praying for him and all of you. I will see you on Saturday. Virginia, I’m sending you a huge hug. 🤗🙏

Debbie Kelley - August 07, 2021 at 03:45 PM

JW

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Uncle Denny. I have many happy memories visiting staying with the family in Maitland. Prayers are with you Aunt Virginia and the entire Casey family.

Julie Kroger Weber - August 07, 2021 at 01:00 PM

MW

“ How blessed we all are to know that genuine smile, to remember that hearty chuckle and twinkling Irish eyes when greeted and to have been the recipients of Uncle Denny’s generosity, love, wonderful cooking, and spirit of entertainment. 🍀🍀

For the Cincinnati Wegman’s, we are so grateful for the variety of memories and stories we have assembled through our childhood summers spent in New Smyrna Beach with the “Florida Casey’s” and “Fashionable Winter Park” friends. For me and Krissy, we were doubly blessed to attend college in Florida and have the tremendous support of one of our best and favorite fans...Uncle Denny!❤️

From Uncle Denny’s famous fish fry to 4th of July fireworks and S’mores...to the hugs and jokes and banter....to the open arms invite to my whole collegiate soccer team each year when we played UCF, to come over for a cookout with the impeccable and gregarious hosts of Uncle Denny and Aunt Virginia💖 To the tremendous support for Krissy at Rollins College following in Uncle Denny’s footsteps on a full basketball scholarship (also thanks to him) 🤗, to my first landlord after I graduated to one of my mentors...and the list goes on....as do the memories and love we have for Uncle Denny and the family.

Not sure what my life would be like without my nickname “Mertz”... given to me by you all!!❤️❤️

His faith and love for family and friends was something we talked about through the years. I always admired the love that came with “Denny and Virginia”...as if their names were as inseparable as they were.💖🍀 Aunt Virginia, our hearts and prayers go out to you...and Lil’ Virg, Karen, Jimmy and all your families.

I know our sweet Mom, Sallie, was there to greet Uncle Denny with a big Sallie smile and hug 🤗 And know that heaviness in your hearts is simple Uncle Denny squeezing in to let you know he is with you always...and may you continue to be blessed with all the wonderful memories shared in his honor.

Love and peace to all. We look forward to celebrating the wonderful life of an amazing gentleman, husband, father, grandpa and friend. I can hear the bagpipes piping...to the edited tune of “ DENNY BOY”

🥰💚🙏💖 Love, Mertz xoxo

Melissa "Mertz" Wegman - August 07, 2021 at 12:34 PM

TH

“ From Judi and Toby Heile our sincere and deepest sympathy to Virginia and the great Casey Family from Winter Park Florida and beyond. We were blessed to visit with Denny and Virginia while visiting Florida in the 1980's that included meeting with Elder grads living in the Orlando Area.

Most of all we trust that Denny is now with Our Lord after spending his life dedicated to Our Lord, his family and community. He has truly earned his place but we are so sorry for his battle with cancer.

May Our Lord bless Virginia and all the Casey Family with peace, healing and hope of being with Our Lord and Denny once again for all eternity.

*Toby (49 year veteran of Elder) and Judi Heile
Cincinnati Ohio
513-607-9058*

Toby and Judi Heile - August 07, 2021 at 09:39 AM