



## Dennis Castle Pilgrim

June 26, 1937 - April 30, 2014

Dennis Castle Pilgrim, 76, of Centreville, MD, died at his home on April 30, 2014.

Born in Washington, DC, on June 29, 1937, he was the son of the late Robert Smith Pilgrim and Virginia Faris.

Mr. Pilgrim served as a photographer's mate in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. He was a self-taught musician, learning the banjo, guitar, and bass. Mr. Pilgrim played with the Nighthawks, a bluegrass country band based out of the Washington, DC, area. He also played as the bass player with Patsy Cline in her early career. He worked with his father at Pilgrim Film Services, Inc. in Washington, DC, and Hyattsville, and moved the business to Kent Island as Pilgrim Imaging, editing and captioning film and video. He ran the business until his retirement in 2007.

He and his wife, Courtney, moved to Symphony Village in 2012. Mr. Pilgrim was a member of Christ Church on Kent Island and St. Paul's Church in Centreville, MD. He enjoyed playing cards, traveling, listening to bluegrass music, and most of all spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife, Courtney; his daughter, Jeanne Burden Pilgrim Mayo and her husband, Robert, of Eldersburg, MD; a son, Jeffress

Dean Pilgrim and his wife, Iwona, of Wilmington, DE; sister, Priscilla Pilgrim Eagye of CO; and grandchildren, Johnathan Mayo, Jeremy Mayo and Sophie Pilgrim.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 5 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Centreville, MD.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Queen Anne's, Inc., 255 Comet Dr., Centreville, MD 21617.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
301 South Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis Castle Pilgrim*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dennis Castle Pilgrim*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dennis Castle Pilgrim*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Mrs. Pilgrim, Jeff and Jeanne and your families,*

*I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I always adored Mr. Pilgrim - who didn't? The way he welcomed me every time Jeff and I would visit will stay with me always. I have happy memories at that lovely house by the bay and think of you all often. I'm keeping you close to my heart and hope that with time, your grief turns to smiles over happy memories and funny stories.*

*With love,  
Melanie (Clark) Bloom*

Melanie Bloom - May 27, 2014 at 04:34 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album *Fun Stuff*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 05, 2014 at 09:56 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album *Family*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 05, 2014 at 09:37 AM

JP

“ 2 files added to the album *Family*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 04, 2014 at 08:36 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeff Pilgrim - May 04, 2014 at 08:32 PM

JP

*My Dad was the Greatest!*

Jeff Pilgrim - May 04, 2014 at 08:33 PM

LD

*he was a good guy many happy memories of the teen years cousin cindy*

lucinda dale - May 05, 2014 at 10:06 AM

JP

“ 2 files added to the album Fun Stuff



Jeff Pilgrim - May 04, 2014 at 08:30 PM

JP

“ 5 files added to the album Family



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 04, 2014 at 03:45 PM

RH

“ *Ron & I have many memories from living across the street, when our kids were young.*

*We all moved out to the "country" and our friendship continued, with game nights, fireworks, picnics, camping, horse races, dinner, & private movie showings. Ron remembers going for beers at Fred & Harry's with Denny and poker nights. Oh, and we must not forget our trip to Vegas! Very fond memories.*

*To all of Denny's family, our thoughts & prayers are with you. May your wonderful memories help you during this time and always,  
Ron & Barbara Hankel*

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**Ron & Barbara Hankel** - May 04, 2014 at 03:37 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 04, 2014 at 06:43 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album Family



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 04, 2014 at 06:36 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album Fun Stuff



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 04, 2014 at 06:33 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album *Family*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 03, 2014 at 04:33 AM

“Denny Pilgrim, Jack Quaintance, and Vernon Taylor formed a three piece group in the Washington area around 1954. They played at the U.S.O. shows and entered talent contests winning many of them. A man named Walter Crouse suggested that Denny put down his banjo and pick up the bass to achieve some bottom in their sound. Denny adapted to this instrument immediately. It was about this time the young group became known as the Nighthawks.

*They broadened their dates to include dances & lawn parties. On several occasions Denny & Vernon would go to watch Jimmy Dean perform. During Dean's breaks he let Vernon & Denny do several songs which the crowd loved for Denny was a great tenor! Soon they were picked up by a fiddle player named Curley Smith. They became known as "Curley Smith & the Nighthawks" and they did a morning radio show on WGAY in Wheaton, Maryland.*

*Later they became known as Vernon Taylor & the Southerners. During this time the group expanded & became the regulars on the Don Owens TV Jamboree which ran from 1957 to 1960. This show aired every Saturday night on WTTG channel 5.*

*Denny often took the band to back Patsy Cline while Vernon used as a rock and roll band. Denny played bass for Patsy until she moved to Nashville. In those days Denny was known as one of the better bass players in the Washington, DC area.*

*During Denny's time with the Southerners the group backed celebrities such as Les Paul & Mary Ford, George Jones, Ed Arnold, George Hamilton IV, Jerry Lee Lewis, Wanda Jackson, and many others. Denny was known for being a band member that you could count on, and was loved by all who worked with him and a great friend.*

*transcribed from note dictated,  
by Vernon Taylor*

*Nighthawks pictures accompanied the note.*

**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 03, 2014 at 03:22 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 03, 2014 at 03:14 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 03, 2014 at 03:13 AM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album Family



**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:44 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:36 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:34 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:30 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:26 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:20 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:09 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the album *Fun Stuff*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:07 PM

JP

“ 4 files added to the album *Jeanne's Wedding*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 07:05 PM

JP

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 04:47 PM

JP

*The Three Black Hats from Middle To Right Vernon Taylor, Jack Quaintance, And Dennis Pilgrim*

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**Jeff Pilgrim** - May 02, 2014 at 05:31 PM

CJ

“ Courtney, So sorry to here of Denny's passing. I am thankful for the time that we shared with both of you at Christ Church. He was a gentle soul and will be missed.

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**Claudia Jewell** - May 02, 2014 at 03:50 PM

AM

“ Sending out thoughts and prayers to Denny's family from his friends at Grasonville Senior Center.  
With much sympathy,



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**Ann Martin** - May 02, 2014 at 02:29 PM