

## Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr.

December 23, 1943 - June 12, 2024

Commander Edward Joseph Sullivan, Jr., USN (Ret.), took his last flight 12 June 2024. He was 80 years young.

“Ed” was born and raised in Woburn, MA on 23 December 1943. In August 1963, Ed reported to the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Bainbridge, MD, and then proudly graduated from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in June 1968. After graduation, Ed attended flight training earning his wings in October 1969. He felt honored and fortunate to have orders to VAL-4, a unique squadron (Black Ponies) flying OV-10s. He was stationed in Vietnam while supporting the Riverine Forces and SEALs in the Mekong Delta. Ed flew more than 360 combat missions to provide close air support and overhead cover.

After Vietnam, Ed was assigned to track Russian submarines during the Cold War flying the P3 Orion Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft, an efficient maritime patrol plane with a range of 5,570 miles. Ed was then assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Independence (CV-62), where he served as an air traffic control officer. Ed was also qualified to fly the C-1 cargo plane and logged 80 carrier landings. Ed next reported to the Pentagon, where he oversaw financial aid to U.S. allies, specifically Turkey and Germany, and reviewed their contracts with American companies. His last USN tour took Ed back to New England as the FAA and NATO Navy representative for the East Coast. After this tour, Ed was

honorably retired, after proudly serving 27 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy.

Always wanting to be connected to his USNA class and the Navy, Ed became the Class Vice President for the East Coast. He spearheaded a unique program called 'Another Link in the Chain' which connects classes 50 years apart. Ed organized many events with the Class of 2018 and became an honorary member following their graduation. After moving to Maryland's Eastern Shore, he served as President of the local Council of the Navy League in Easton, Maryland. Ed had an avid interest in golf, both loving it and hating it, all at the same time, and played until he could play no more.

Ed is survived, and will be deeply missed, by his loving wife Kathleen Buckel Sullivan, married in 2011; his children, daughters Julianne Sullivan and Meghan Sullivan, son Eddie Sullivan, and step-daughter Lisa Brooks. He was affectionately referred to as "Big Dad" by his grandchildren Zach Higgins, Noah Sullivan and step-grandchild Mickey Stewart. Ed is also survived by his brother Charlie Sullivan (Aurie), and sisters Mary van Deventer (Hans) and Joanne Owen (Clark); sister-in-law, Debi Wells Hooper (Bob); as well as many nieces and nephews.

Ed was predeceased by his father, Edward Joseph Sullivan, Sr; mother, Patricia Hardy Sullivan; brother, Michael Sullivan; and granddaughter Erin Sullivan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Talbot County Hospice, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601-3805 or USNA Foundation, 274 Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21402, (online at [www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give) – please note: Alumni Center, Class of 1968).

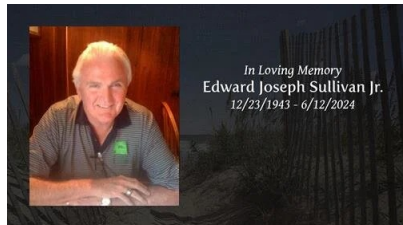
A full military service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later

date. A private celebration of life was held with family and close friends. Go Navy, BEAT ARMY!

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr.*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - August 19, 2024 at 08:30 AM

MD

“ *I first met Ed when I was assigned to be his enlisted airspace specialist at the FAA headquarters in Burlington, Massachusetts in 1992. I worked with Ed for 2+ years before he retired. I stress worked with and not for Ed. He always gave me free rein to offer ideas, make suggestions and treated me as if we were on the same level. Upon meeting him for the first time he asked me if I intended to continue my career after my tour at the FAA Headquarters. When I responded no that I intended to retire, he smiled. He told me that the duty assignment I was given was a very intensive program designed to acclimate us to the transition from military duty to civilian life. And, he added, I had better get with the program. All kidding aside, Ed was a highly professional person, a very compassionate and caring person, and a joy to work with. I am sure all who knew him will miss him dearly and I hope they all have wonderful memories of a great man with a great soul. Fair winds and following seas, Commander. Save a place in heaven for me.*



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**Michael Day** - August 14, 2024 at 12:19 PM

MD

“ 1 file added to the album Cdr Sullivan and ACCS(AW) Michael Day



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**Michael Day** - August 14, 2024 at 12:07 PM

DC

“ Ed and I spent great times together in VP56 on Crew 11 (actually Gang 11). Ed was a special person with a personality bigger than his smile. God Speed Ed you'll be missed.

*Darryal Chandler*

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**Darryal Chandler** - August 11, 2024 at 05:08 PM

MV

“ Growing up, I always felt my Uncle Ed was larger than life. I always looked up to him, literally and figuratively, for his military accomplishments and viewed him as the patriarch of the Sullivan family. I will cherish the memories we had with him that we will never forget. You were an inspiration to the family and an amazing uncle, father and Big Dad.

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**Matt VanDeventer** - June 24, 2024 at 06:48 PM

NG

“ Noah, Shani and Granny planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..

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**Noah, Shani and Granny** - June 24, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..*



June 24, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ *Denise and Mark Davisson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..*

**Denise and Mark Davisson** - June 24, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ *Denise and Mark Davisson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..*



**Denise and Mark Davisson** - June 24, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ *Uncle Ed you were simply an amazing man and someone who will be missed greatly by all of us. Thank you for being the biggest cheerleader for all of us, it was appreciated more than you know. Lots of love to your family as they go through this tough time, sending all my love to everyone. Go Navy❤️.*

**Katie Sullivan** - June 23, 2024 at 06:08 PM

JV

“ Uncle Ed, I am so proud to be your niece. You accomplished so many incredible things in your life but you were also so funny and an amazing uncle, dad, son, brother, grandfather and husband. We will never forget you. Please watch over us ❤️

Jenna VanDeventer - June 23, 2024 at 09:13 AM

YN

“ Your Nieces & Nephews purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..



Your Nieces & Nephews - June 23, 2024 at 08:57 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..



June 22, 2024 at 02:13 PM

AK

“ Uncle Ed, you were always a larger than life man that I looked up to my whole life! To say you will be missed is an understatement. I'm sure my dad was waiting for you, ready to give his big brother the biggest hug ever. Love you and rest in peace. Save a seat at the bar up there for me!

Amy Klimek - June 18, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Edward Joseph Sullivan Jr..*



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June 17, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ *Ed, it is so difficult and inadequate to express the range of emotions I feel just thinking about you! I love you so much and will miss you always! As the first born of five siblings you set a beautiful example for all of us , you gave us so many memories to cherish for the rest of our lives. I am so proud that you are my brother! My heart is broken, but I know you are at peace and I take comfort knowing that. Love you always, Mary & Hans*

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**Mary VanDeventer** - June 17, 2024 at 10:26 AM