



Capt. Gregory Patrick Dowd Sr.

September 29, 1933 - July 26, 2022

Captain Gregory Patrick Dowd, Sr. US Navy (Ret.)

Gregory P. Dowd, Sr. passed away peacefully on July 26, 2022, in Easton, MD at the age of 88.

Greg was born in St. Louis, Missouri to William Charles & Mary Helen Dowd. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a B.S. in Zoology and then joined the US Navy in 1955, earning his Wings of Gold in 1957, Greg retired after 26 years as a Captain. While in the Navy he earned his M.S. at George Washington University, attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and was designated as one of the first 100 Aeronautical Maintenance Duty Officers in the Navy.

During his Naval Aviation career, he flew the SNJ, T-28 Buckeye, TV-2 Shooting Star, F9F-2 Panther, F9F-8 Cougar, SNB-5P Twin Beech, U-1A Otter, R4D Dakota, R6D Liftmaster, F3D Skynight, and F3H Demon. His duty stations included being wintered over in Antarctica, Key West, Jacksonville, Alameda, Washington, DC, and San Diego. While he was in Antarctica, he logged the 1st night instrument landing in an UC-1 Otter in June of 1958. During the Vietnam War he served on several aircraft carriers including the Hancock, Midway, Forrestal, Kitty Hawk, Constellation, America, and Coral Sea in various Aircraft Maintenance Officer roles.

During his service to our country, he received commendations including: The Legion of Merit, Navy Commendation with Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star, Antarctic Service Medal with Wintered over Device, Vietnam Service Medal with 6 Bronze Stars, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 4 Bronze Stars among others.

After retirement from the Navy, Greg worked in the defense contracting industry with several firms including CACI where he met his longtime friend and fellow "Kirkwood, MO boy" Ron Flauaus (Crystal) (this led to many great times and stories in Buckwheat Valley).

Greg retired in 2002 to Buckwheat Valley in Pennsylvania where he enjoyed his time with many close friends. An avid fly fisherman, Greg traveled on numerous fishing trips across the globe. Most special were his annual trips to Spruce Creek with his children for fishing, storytelling and hours filled with laughter. In 2010, Greg moved to Easton to be closer to family. He enjoyed his home overlooking a beautiful pond where he would do a spot of fishing, watch his geese, and enjoy the evening sunsets.

Greg's family was large, 3 boys and 3 girls. Greg was predeceased by his mother and father as well as his sister Janet and brothers Jack and Dick. Greg is survived by his sisters Sue (Pat) Lauber-Fleming of High Ridge, MO and Dori Kelly of Canton, GA; his children Greg Jr. (Karyl) of Wilmington, NC, Bill (Cathy) of Easton, MD and Laura of Del Mar, CA; and six loving grandchildren, Melissa (Dan) Pirrmann of Ridgewood, NJ; Jennifer (Kaleb) Neher of Goldsboro, NC with great-grandchildren Grace, Brennan and Jamison; Conner Dowd of Meridian, MS; Claire Dowd of Easton, MD; Keith Aylwin of Orion, MI and Troy Aylwin of San Diego, CA.

Services with full military honors will be held at Jefferson Barracks (St. Louis, MO) on November 12, 2022, at 9am.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Talbot Hospice Foundation, Easton, MD or the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 12. 9:00 AM (CT)

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery
2900 Sheridan Rd
St. Louis, MO 63125-4198
(314) 845-8320

Tribute Wall



“ *Capt. Gregory Patrick Dowd Sr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Capt. Gregory Patrick Dowd Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Capt. Gregory Patrick Dowd Sr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I am Sarah Aleman and a friend of Sally Meyer, Greg's long time friend/companion. I had a number of opportunities to interact with Greg in different locations. I am a Kirkwood, MO gal as well as Sally and Greg was a Kirkwood guy. We met up in the city. I also met him while visiting Sally in Virginia. I even had the opportunity to visit Greg's mini farm in Buckwheat Valley.*

Greg was a great man exhibiting loyalty and kindness. He had a sense of humor and fun to be with. I always admired his ramrod straight posture - from the Navy?

Greg will be greatly missed.

Sarah Aleman - July 30, 2022 at 12:50 PM

PG

“ Although I was also a Naval Aviator and a Captain I never met Greg while we were in the Navy. Our friendship started through our mutual love of fly fishing. I was running a fly fishing business and I met Greg at one of the many fly fishing shows we attended.

Greg who I always referred to as “Captain my Captain” loved to fly fish and especially so for trout. He attended dozens of my Spruce Creek trips over the years and then started bringing his family and did so for the last several years that he was able to fish.

Greg is now a permanent part of Spruce Creek as his likeness is in a painting that hangs over the credenza in the dining room of the cottage. I will always remember his orange camo waders, yellow shirt and green vest. The artist who was also an aviator in the Air Force captured Greg in one of his favorite spots with a fish on his line.

We also had a memorable trip to Chile where Greg caught several very large brown trout in the 5-6 pound range.

Greg and I shared many sea stories over the years and I was particularly interested in his time operating during “Operation Deep Freeze.” Greg did the type of flying that few men have ever done.

I will miss “Captain my Captain”.

Phil Gay - July 28, 2022 at 12:18 PM

SF

Thanks Phil. My brother GREG, treasured your friendship and All your fishing times together. He spoke very highly of you with deep gratitude. Thanks for all of his good. Times with you n all the Klds. Kerry tooo !
Sue Dowd Lauber Fleming.

SUE ALAUBER FLEMINGdd - July 29, 2022 at 02:32 PM