



Russell Allen DeVilbiss

April 6, 1948 - August 23, 2024

Russell Allen DeVilbiss, age 76 of Centreville, Maryland, passed away on August 22, 2024 at University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton after a long struggle with diabetes and complications from a fall.

Russell was born on April 6, 1948 in Blue Island, Illinois to Kenneth and Betty DeVilbiss, and was the eldest of two sons. He graduated in 1966 from Dwight D. Eisenhower High School in Blue Island. Russell received his bachelor's degree in music education in 1970 from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. At Augustana, he met his future wife, Vickie Ryberg. They married in 1972 and would raise three sons together. After briefly serving as a high school band director in Iowa, Russell enlisted in the United States Navy, relocating to Annapolis, Maryland and joining the Naval Academy Band as an oboist. In his more than 20 years of service as a military musician, he performed internationally, directed the academy's Ceremonial Band, and achieved the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer due to his vital management of the large wind ensemble's preparation and travel logistics. Following his retirement from the Navy in the mid-1990s, Russell worked in a variety of information technology and office support positions, most recently with the Betts & Holt Law Practice in Washington, DC. His lifelong passion for music never stopped, and he continued directing and performing in local ensembles in his retirement years before moving to Centreville.

Russell was a proud veteran with an inherent belief in service and hard work. He reveled in both the arts and information. He was an avid and voracious reader, a record collector, a classic film buff, and a sports fan. Russell enjoyed visiting historic sites, museums, and cultural attractions when he traveled. An astute armchair observer of both television and life, his stoic demeanor belied a quick wit backed by a wealth of wisdom. Russell was a devoted husband to Vickie for more than 50 years, always putting the needs of family above his own. He was a dedicated father, a man of honesty, humor, and humility who gave his three sons a steady, daily example of how to be honorable and respectful men. He was a proud, joyous, and attentive grandfather. He will be missed.

He is survived by his wife Vickie; two sons, Andrew and Chad; two daughters-in-law, Andrea and Cheryl; two grandsons, Miles and Sven; one brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Gail. He was preceded in death by his son, Brian.

Burial will be private.

The family has requested that remembrances be made in the form of contributions to:

Maryland Therapeutic Riding

1141 Sunrise Beach Rd, Crownsville, MD 21032

<https://www.horsethatheal.org/volunteer-at-mtr/how-to-get-involved/>

American Diabetes Association

<https://diabetes.org/ways-to-give/memorial-gift>

Cemetery Details

Crownsville Veterans Cemetery

Crownsville, MD

Tribute Wall

AD

“ Russ was one of my biggest advocates with the Bay Winds Band. I will always be grateful for the opportunities I have had thanks to him. Hoping your positive memories can bring you some comfort as well.

Anne D - September 11, 2024 at 04:33 PM

TC

“ We knew Russ from The Bay Winds Band where he conducted for us and played the oboe. Always kind and patient and very musically gifted, we will remember him fondly and offer our deepest sympathies to his family.
Tracey and Dan Cogliano

Tracey Cabral Cogliano - September 08, 2024 at 07:00 PM

DS

“ The members of the U.S. Naval Academy Band would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the DeVilbiss family for your loss. Russell enthusiastically shared his warmhearted spirit and musical talents with so many of our past and present musicians professionally and through volunteer endeavors in the community. We are ever grateful for the opportunity to know him as a colleague and friend.

Wishing you comfort and peace during this difficult time,

U.S. Naval Academy Band

Devona Schiller - September 03, 2024 at 01:23 PM

SL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Russ’s passing . Russ was a my good friend at Augustana. I treasured the times we all shared in the practice rooms, laughing, visiting and trying to figure life out, rather than practicing! He cared deeply for all of us in the music department and had a humorous countenance about him when Pondering his retort. Oh, for just one more time in the practice room....we’ll get it right this time.
With deepest Sympathy,
Susan Cornwell Langwith

susan Langwith - August 26, 2024 at 10:54 PM

DH

“ Prayers to you Vickie and all of the family. A fond memory that we have living in Cape St. Claire was when, in the summer, our side windows would be open Josie and I would hear the sweet sound of Russ playing and practicing his oboe. I'm sure that my hearing him furthered my love for classical music to this very day. Know that we are thinking of you and the family.

David & Josie Heise - August 26, 2024 at 08:20 AM

PP

“ My sincere condolences to Vickie and the family for their loss. Russ chose to play oboe — the most difficult instrument to play. Russ’s years of service in the US Naval Academy Band gave pleasure and inspiration to many midshipmen, their families, and all who heard their music.
Pat Pekary

Pat Pekary - August 25, 2024 at 05:10 PM

JE

“ I only knew Russ via my work with Chad, but he always impressed me as a sensitive and patient man— notably, when Chad lost his new prescription eyeglasses on a ride at the county fair. I never saw Chad so worried, but Russ simply sighed and let it go. A gentleman to his core.

Jane Elkin - August 25, 2024 at 02:33 PM

JR

“ I had the pleasure of serving with Russ during my time at the Naval Academy Band from 1977-1981. He was an outstanding musician and a great shipmate. I am sorry to hear of his passing. Russ... rest well my friend....and save me a seat in the band.

*Jim Richards
MUCS, USN, ret.*

Jim Richards - August 25, 2024 at 01:03 PM