



Mr. Robert Joseph Duffey

April 11, 1939 - July 14, 2021

Robert Joseph (R.J.) Duffey went to sing with the angels on July 14, 2021, peacefully passing at the Alice Center, Malone, NY.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Kim; his daughter Deirdre Duffey, son Kevin (and spouse Hani Hojati) Duffey, son MAJ Thomas Powers US Army (and spouse Victoria), Lt. CDR Kaitlin Skiver USCG Res.(and spouse Robert "Lee" Skiver), and daughter Lt. CDR Lily Hinz USN Res.(and spouse Lt. CDR Brendan Moynihan Hinz USN). His grandchildren - Sorna, Eleanor, Emerie, Kathleen, Robert "Harry", Margaret and Cormac. His sister, Marianne Rodgers and her husband, Bill, of Denver and his former wife, Maura Stirling, of Port St. Lucie, FL survive him.

He was born in Buffalo, NY on April 11, 1939 and was raised in Olean, NY. After graduating high school, he attended the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, following the family tradition set by his uncles Joe and Bob. He was a wee boy during WWII but the stories of the sea battles (especially in the Pacific) captivated and inspired his life-long study of all things military. At Notre Dame, he loved to sneak into the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and play the organ - bringing his own sheet music. He attended a Kingston Trio concert on campus and met the group - taking them out afterwards to South Bend's "hot spots" to "meet ladies". The next day, he bought a used guitar at a shop in town. The classical piano his mother had taught him gave way to folk, and then Irish and American roots music. Curiosity and continuous learning was his specialty and along the way, he acquired a used banjo and loved to play

his five string. After graduating from Notre Dame, he moved to New York City. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. Every summer was spent at Fort Drum and that guitar came in handy around the base - where he learned every Army song and cadence known. He said it got him out of less thrilling assignments and his Sergeant was a "pal."

In the city, Duffey was a jack of all trades - working as a graphic/board artist, designing logos and print layouts, tending bar in Irish Pubs, and singing and playing and meeting some legends. He opened a pub in East Greenbush and one in Vermont. He moved to Florida in the 1980s and worked in commercial art and design and advertising. He met and married Kim and they raised their children on Costello Road in the south end of West Palm Beach. RJ painted murals all over South and Central Florida in homes and businesses.

Occasionally, he returned to NYC for a commission to design interior art installations. To "pay the rent" he was booked to draw caricatures at events and trade shows throughout the country.

RJ and Kim moved permanently to the North Country in 2011 after one too many hurricanes. "Buffalo Bob" was not intimidated by the snow and in the deep days of winter, he got more creative with his art and music. He entertained friends and taught students guitar and banjo, sketched and painted. He loved their "day trips" around the region and a good ham sandwich picnic watching boats on the lakes or moving through the locks on the Seaway.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on July 28, 2021, at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick's Church, Chateaugay, NY. Immediately followed by an Irish "wake" at the American Legion, 80 West Main Street, Chateaugay NY where all can share a song, a poem or a story.

In lieu of flowers or gifts to the family, please consider a donation to the WoundedWarriorProject.org or to the Chateaugay American Legion.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 28. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Patrick's Church
132 W Main St
Chateaugay, NY 12920-6013
(518) 497-6673

Celebration of Life

JUL 28. 12:00 PM.

Chateaugay American Legion
Chateaugay, NY

Tribute Wall

DT

“ Oh, Kim, I miss you daily at Suncoast. When you and RJ went north I held out hope you'd come back one day and I'd get to join in on one of the Irish singalongs I had always heard about. You and your amazing family are sadly but respectfully in my thoughts and prayers today. Your friend and former Suncoast neighbor, David Traill

David Traill - July 26, 2021 at 01:35 PM

DE

“ Debbie purchased the Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy for the family of Mr. Robert Joseph Duffey.



Debbie - July 26, 2021 at 01:29 PM

AF

“ Dearest Kim, my deepest condolences on this heavy loss. I have thought of you often since our times at Suncoast and miss your energy and enthusiasm for education. May this same energy carry you forward through your grief. Hugs, my friend, Andrea Fossum

Andrea Fossum - July 26, 2021 at 01:05 PM

KE

“ 7 files added to the album Family Photos



Kevin - July 23, 2021 at 06:23 PM

PB

“ My two girls and I were fortunate to live next door to Kim and RJ, in Costello Rd. I always thought of RJ as a great father and husband. Although I personally can't carry a tune in a bucket, it was so enjoyable when Kim, RJ and friends would have their "jam" sessions, sometimes on the front porch. He was a good man. He will be missed. Vaya con Dios.
Pedro Bello

pedro bello - July 22, 2021 at 09:40 PM

KE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kevin - July 22, 2021 at 03:21 PM

SS

“ Sending lots of love and hugs to you and your family Kim. I didn't know RJ, but can tell he was a special guy and was well-loved and will be greatly missed.



Sarah Shoemaker - July 21, 2021 at 11:15 AM

KA

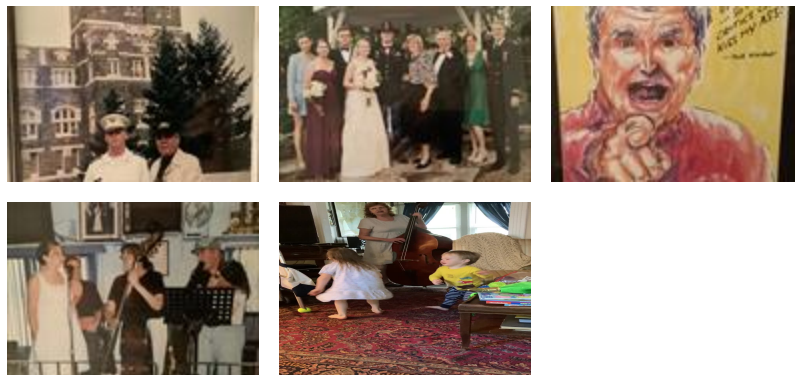
“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Kaitlin - July 20, 2021 at 07:39 PM

KD

“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Kim Duffey - July 19, 2021 at 10:04 PM

JM

“ Kim, our sincere condolences to you and your great family. R J was certainly one of a kind. A fantastic husband, father, grandfather, singer, artist , storyteller and teacher. I benefited from his knowledge and patience with regard to music and voice lessons which still resonate 40 years later, thank you RJ! We know he’s touched many over the years and was deeply loved by you and all of your great family. Stay strong.All our love Jack & Beth

Jack McCue - July 19, 2021 at 06:00 PM

KD

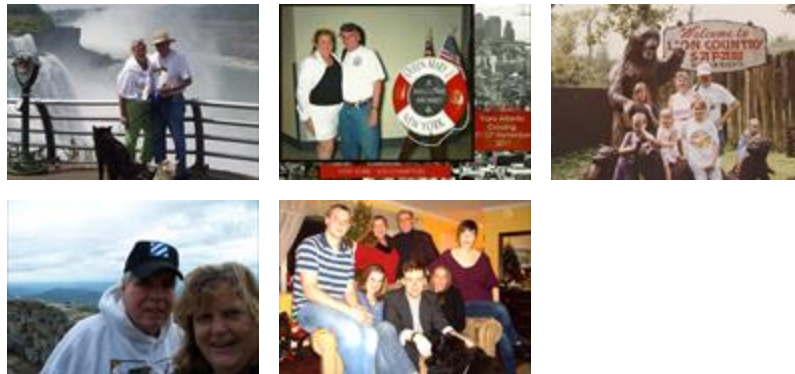
“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Kim Duffey - July 19, 2021 at 02:22 PM

KD

“ 14 files added to the album Family Photos



Kim Duffey - July 19, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ *Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Joseph Duffey.*



July 19, 2021 at 10:18 AM



“ *I never had the pleasure of meeting and knowing RJ but being a friend & colleague of Kim's, I can just imagine the joy, liveliness, and fun that was their life together. While losses are never easy, I am confident that Kim will find ways to celebrate and joyfully remember their special life together. Sending hugs... Donna*

Donna Whitelaw - July 19, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *16 files added to the album Family Photos*



Kim - July 17, 2021 at 10:55 PM

CH

“ *Duffey's Rovers - Holiday Inn - Kingston, New York*

Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbZ8ZfuEBA8>

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coi6zUh46n0>

Part 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZVCI7kPPKU>

Part 4 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyloBBghx7E>

Chateaugay Funeral Home - July 16, 2021 at 02:14 PM