

## **Dennis M. Dwyer (August 22, 1951-April 14, 2020)**

Rear Admiral Dennis M. "Denny" Dwyer, USN (Ret.) died on 14 April 2020 after an extended battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was 68 years old.

Born 22 August 1951, he grew up in Levittown, PA, attended Bishop Eagan High School, and in 1969, entered the U.S. Naval Academy. Denny graduated with a BS degree in Operations Analysis with the class of 1973's 18<sup>th</sup> company.

Over the next 32 years he delivered outstanding, major contributions to our nation's defense. His first assignment was aboard the USS LUCE (DDG 38) as a new Surface Warfare Officer with deployments to the Atlantic and Mediterranean. He then left to attend the Naval Postgraduate School and by 1978 earned a Masters in Electrical Engineering. He was designated an Engineering Duty Officer to excel in a variety of leadership and command roles within the shipbuilding, acquisition, and cryptologic communities.

His significant contributions led to his selection to Flag in 2000. Denny took the helm of the Navy's Strategic Systems Program as its 10<sup>th</sup> Director. He steered this critical program to new heights and ensured that the nation's seaborne defensive deterrent, by way of TRIDENT delivered missiles, remained armed and ready. In 2002, he was promoted to Rear Admiral (upper half) and led the development and acquisition of the U.S Navy's aircraft carriers as the third Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers. During three years at the helm, Denny formed and led an elite team that commissioned USS REAGAN (CVN 76), constructed USS BUSH (CVN 77) and designed USS FORD (CVN 78), while maintaining and modernizing the carrier fleet. His leadership enabled the rapid surge deployment of six carriers that provided crucial air support for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

A two-decade Navy football season ticket holder, Denny loved showing off the Naval Academy to friends and family. He delighted in time spent with his Class of 1973 classmates at tailgate parties and Army-Navy games.

From 18<sup>th</sup> Company, a departing note – "We will now think about the table with Brad, Barry, Steve, George and now Denny. Wherever they are tonight, they are together..hopefully toasting a life well led, and toasting we..those they left behind."

Denny is survived by his devoted wife of 40 years, the former Eva Cicero; daughter, Shannon (Christopher); son, Kevin (Jessalyn); granddaughters Kathleen and Caroline; and sisters, Diane, Margaret, and Maryann.

A memorial service and interment will be held at the Naval Academy at a future date.