



Dan B Gyllenskog

September 21, 1948 - May 12, 2014

Smithfield, UT – Dan B Gyllenskog, 65, passed away on Monday, May 12, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Logan, Utah September 21, 1948 to Glen Duke and Laurel Bateman Gyllenskog. He attended schools in Smithfield and Richmond, Utah, graduating from Sky View High School in 1966.

He enlisted at age 17 in the United States Marine Corps and was a member of the first Honor platoon of Marine recruits since World War II. Serving from 1966-1971, he fought in Viet Nam from 1968-1969 and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He married his eternal companion, Patricia Ann Larson, in the Logan LDS Temple on February 12, 1971. They are the parents of five children: Michael Jennifer, Dani Ross Hart, James Wendy, Natalie Blair Higley, and Jared Brynn.

He worked as an apprentice and journeyman plumber for Hilco Plumbing for 13 years and retired from the United States Postal Service after 27 years.

He has been an active member of the Smithfield American Legion Post 58 for over 40 years and served as Commander for over 30 years. He was a voluntary service officer for Veteran Disability Claims and helped many acquire their benefits. He arranged for, staffed and participated in funeral color guards for veterans throughout the region. He worked tirelessly to improve the lives of homeless veterans and acquired many donations for the Fisher House in Salt Lake City. He was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and served as an officer for the Department of Utah and Chapter 995. He was a charter member of the Cache Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12076 and currently serving as a service officer and elected position as adjutant. He was one of the two originators for the Utah Chapter of the Wounded Warrior Fund. Dan was instrumental in organizing and naming the Cpl Gerald Max Rich Detachment #1352 of the Marine Corps League of Cache Valley and presently serving as Commandant. He was actively involved with acquiring toys and donations for Toys for Tots. In September 2011, he brought the traveling Viet Nam Memorial Wall replica to Cache Valley and provided security and staffing for the event. The Wall held special meaning to Dan due to the fact that he always said "my name should be on there" as he lost many of his close friends and 'brothers' on a day he considered his second birthday, February 23, 1969. He played tuba with the Cache Community Band for many years, participating in numerous parades and concerts in the

valley. Dan was a member of the NRA for over 20 years and an active participant in the Cache Valley Friends of the NRA, supporting youth hunter education YHEC, gun safety programs and activities for valley youth, as well as support for the local public shooting range.

As a mountain man, Muskrat, participated in muzzleloader competitions and was a black powder rifle marksman. He was adopted into the Willow Creek Free Trappers family where he enjoyed many years of rendezvous and special friendships.

He won numerous Dutch oven cook-offs, which led to a family business, called "Dan's Dutch Ovens." He and his family catered numerous events from Idaho to Arizona.

He was an athletic booster and participated in the Veteran's assemblies at Sky View High School for many years. He donated gallons of blood to the Red Cross. Each Memorial Day he personally made sure there was an American flag on every veteran's grave in the Smithfield Cemetery. Dan considered it a great privilege to participate with the Patriot Guard Riders. Their motto "Standing for those who stood for us" is what he always advocated through his example of patriotism and loyalty. The opportunity to be a part of the "Michael J. Allred, Ride for the Fallen" event allowed him to become friends with a very special family and brought him great enjoyment.

He is survived by his wife, children, 15 grandchildren, two brothers Jeff and Max, two sisters Jane and Joy Page, and his mother-in-law Dorothy Larson with whom he has a special relationship.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a father-in-law, Lynn Larson, a brother-in-law Richard Larson, and numerous military and mountain man friends.

A viewing will be held on Friday, May 16 from 6 to 8 pm at the Nelson Funeral Home located at 162 East 400 North, Logan, Utah. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 17 at the Smithfield 21st Ward chapel at 345 East 300 South, Smithfield, Utah with a viewing from 10 to 11:30 am. Burial will follow in the Smithfield City Cemetery with full military honors. Condolences may be extended to the family online at www.nelsonfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to the Youth Hunter Education Challenge Program or the Utah Chapter of the Wounded Warrior Fund. Address information will be available at the funeral home. Once a Marine, always a Marine...Semper Fi.

Comments



“ His truck was painted Marine Corps red. His Dress Blues were Marine Corps sharp.

Sgt. Dan Gyllenskog was once a Marine... and he never forgot it.

"Once a Marine. Always a Marine. Semper Fi."

Dan was known by many names... Sgt. Dan, Mailman Dan, Plumber Dan, and Muskrat (from his trapper days).

I first knew him as "Dutch Oven Dan" as official cook for the Michael J. Allred "Ride for the Fallen." Dan's Dutch Ovens was a family business, but he found a lot of joy donating his time and money to honor another Marine and Utah's Fallen.

"Always a Marine" was a theme Sgt. Dan lived his life by. His obituary attests to that:

"[Dan] has been an active member of Smithfield American Legion Post 58 for over 40 years and served as Commander for over 30 years. He was a voluntary service officer for Veteran Disability Claims and helped many acquire their benefits. He arranged for, staffed and participated in funeral color guards for veterans throughout the region. He worked tirelessly to improve the lives of homeless veterans and acquired many donations for the Fisher House in Salt Lake City.

"He was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and served as an officer for the Department of Utah and Chapter 995. He was a charter member of the Cache Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12076 and currently serving as a service officer and elected position as adjutant. He was one of the two originators for the Utah Chapter of the Wounded Warrior Fund.

"Dan was instrumental in organizing and naming the Cpl. Gerald Max Rich, Detachment #1352 of the Marine Corps League of Cache Valley and presently serving as Commandant. He was actively involved with acquiring toys and donations for Toys for Tots."

Sgt. Dan was instrumental in bringing the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall replica to Cache Valley in September 2011. I had a chance to help tell that story and discovered firsthand Dan's love for his country and his Marine Corps.

I knew Dan was a Vietnam Vet and a Purple Heart Recipient, but what I didn't know was his special connection to the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The story was shared at his funeral that Dan always said "my name should be on there," as he lost many of his "brothers" on February 23 in 1969, a day he considered his "second birthday."

Sgt. Dan was instrumental in keeping the "Eternal Flame" burning at the Cache County Veterans Memorial at the Historic County Courthouse. I often saw Sgt. Dan serving as part of the American Legion Rifle Squad at the Sky View High School Veteran's Day Tribute.

Every Memorial Day, Sgt. Dan "personally made sure there was an American flag on every veteran's grave in the Smithfield Cemetery."

This year the service will continue without him. The American Legion will be putting out flags Saturday morning (May 24) at 0700 hours (7am) and retrieving them Monday evening at 1700 hours (5pm). My family and I will be there helping out. I invite you to join us.

"Once a Marine. Always a Marine. Semper Fi."

Have a great Monday!

Les Patterson

p.s. Take 13 minutes today to read Sgt. Dan's complete obituary and a fun tribute to Muskrat from Bears Butt.

<https://blog.redegemmarketing.com/2014/05/19/monday-morning-boost-farewell-sgt-dan/>

Les Patterson - August 06, 2018 at 03:25 AM



“ Pat, I was sad to hear about Dan. My heart aches for you and your kids. Just know that I'm praying for you and my thoughts are with you. Hang in there. Sherisse

Sherisse Jamison Darrough - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ With sincere condolence to Danny's wife and children.

Dee Ogden - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Gyllenskog family Please accept my condolences. Not only from our family, but as Past President of the Blue Star Mothers of America. Dan was always there to help and answer questions for us, and he became a dear friend not only to my self, but many many others. He was a perfect example of Christlike love. May Our Father in Heaven be with you all at this time.

Rhonda Hunter - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dan had always been helpful and kind in helping with Platoon 1071 and our Marine Corps reunions. His example will always inspire me. He will be missed greatly. Mike

Mike Millet - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ As the commander of VFW Post# 12076, I would like to express our love for Dan Gillenskog, who always was ready to give of himself to promote the VFW in events that we sponsored for the veterans in our area. Dan will be missed. Dan Gillenskogs passing leaves a hole in all of our hearts. It was a privelage to have known him, and to have been his friend. Semper Fi

Samuel Owen Commander VFW Post 12076 - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Mountain man tough with the heart of a Teddy Bear.

Justin Griffin - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ WE LOST A GREAT MARINE WE WILL MISS HIM. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. GOD BLESS AND COMFORT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. DETACHMENT COMMANDANT ROBERT BRUHN L.CPL DION J. STEPHENSON DETACHMENT #1014 MCL. BOUNTIFUL .UTAH

ROBERT BRUHN - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss, Pat. We are never ready to lose our spouses. He & I go way back to when he delivered mail to me out by Willow Park, always pleasant. Then when he would come into The HJ we would always have a good talk about the memorial he supported so much. I am a better person knowing that man. I, also have some Obituaries saved for you.

Cyndi Fulton - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ We are sorry for your loss, but grateful for his service in the U S Marine Corps. Please accept our condolences. Marine Corps League Auxiliary #476 Cache Valley, Utah

Chaplain - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Dan was a wonderful person and member of society who showed a perfect example of citizenship and commitment to the things he loved most.

Nate and LeeAnn Lundgreen - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so deeply sorry to hear of Dan's passing What a wonderful caring man he was. Our prayers are with all the family and friends.

Barry and Lalie Howard - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Pat - I read of your sweetheart's passing this morning. I wanted to express to you my condolences and concern for you at this difficult time. May your pain be tempered by your memories of your dear loved one's great love of family and country, his passions for life and for you. Much love to you, your highschool friend, Sharon

Sharon Ainscough Gough - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Our love and respect to all of Dan's family. It appears he led a full and productive life.

Stuart and Meridee Hatch - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Such a great man! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Dustin & Eden Hooton - December 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM



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