



Kent Lee Dillingham

December 7, 1956 - April 6, 2018

Kent Dillingham passed away in Owasso, OK on April 6, 2018 at the age of 61. Kent was born in Tulsa, Ok on December 7, 1956 to Charles and Betty Smith (Rider). He received his public education in Bartlesville, OK attending College High and graduating from high school at the Army Navy Academy in Carlsbad, CA.

After graduation, he joined the Marines in 1974, then transferred to the Navy in 1979. Upon completion of his training, Kent became a Navy SEAL, graduating at the top of his class. While in the service of his country, he received 7 bronze stars, 3 gold stars, marksman, sharpshooter and combat swimmer awards, and multiple good conduct, commendation and service medals, awards, and ribbons. Kent retired with 30 years of military service in 2004 ranked Senior Chief Petty Officer.

He leaves behind his wife Leah, of the home, son Jason Hood River, OR, son Morgan Panama City Beach, FL, daughter April Hand Panama City Beach, FL, mother Betty Dillingham Owasso, OK, sister Sherry Whisler and Ed, Claremore, OK, stepsister Linda Curtis, Cushing, OK, 5 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Charles H. Smith, Jr., brother Vance D. Smith, stepfather Syd W. Dillingham, and stepbrother Fred D. Dillingham.

Graveside services will be held at Chelsea cemetery on May 5, 2018.

Cemetery Details

Chelsea Cemetery

Chelsea, OK

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY **5**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Chelsea Cemetery
Chelsea, OK

Tribute Wall

AH

“ Kent was my Dad. I would love to hear any memories you may have with him or even my mom who was Mary Ann Williams when my Dad passed. Please feel free to reach out to me at my email APRIL LHAND@gmail.com

April Hand - December 15, 2024 at 12:29 AM

JA

“ Missing you on your birthday. You are remembered and not forgotten.



James - December 07, 2022 at 02:28 PM

JA

“ James lit a candle in memory of Kent Lee Dillingham



James - December 07, 2019 at 03:43 PM

JA

Missing talking to you on your birthday.

James - December 07, 2019 at 03:41 PM

JA

“ James lit a candle in memory of Kent Lee Dillingham



James - September 09, 2019 at 10:32 AM

JW

“ I will miss you brother. Our trust and confidence proved scripture (Proverbs 18:24)
"There are friends who are friends, and there is a friend that is closer than a brother." - Aramaic translation.



James Watson - May 07, 2018 at 08:20 AM

LD

Thank you for everything, James. You are a true comrade to Kent.

Love,
Leah

Leah Dillingham - May 09, 2018 at 06:46 PM

JA

Missing you KD...

James - June 15, 2018 at 07:54 AM

JA

You were heavy on my mind all last week and on your birthday brother. Missing you and your matter-of-fact humor.

James - December 10, 2018 at 10:15 AM

LM

Wow! I just stumbled on this obituary today., a little over 5 years later. Aquaman, what happened?

Linda Miller - June 06, 2023 at 10:39 AM

Andy-Dustie
Jobe

“ *So thank to have known my Uncle Kent for the past year and a half. He welcomed me into the family with loving arms after my father, his brother, Vance's death. Thankful for the short time we shared together. His death was too soon for me as well. We were truly blessed to have known him.*
Dustie Jobe, Bixby OK



Andy-Dustie Jobe - May 05, 2018 at 10:00 PM

JB

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



John Bridwell - May 05, 2018 at 08:29 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



John Bridwell - May 05, 2018 at 08:29 AM

 Jenée
Brewer

“ Kent, myself and 3 others spent years every saturday bowling in a league. We all had a great time and hate that we lost touch with each other. Kent was kind, smart and could put a smile on your face. Leah I am so sorry for your loss.
Jenée Brewer

Jenée Brewer - May 04, 2018 at 04:26 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name

 Sturgis 1982

John Bridwell - May 03, 2018 at 08:09 AM

JB

Not sure why this photo did not load?

John Bridwell - May 03, 2018 at 08:28 AM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



John Bridwell - April 29, 2018 at 10:35 PM

JA

Kent always knew what he wanted and wasn't afraid to go get it, and he didn't give a damn what anyone else thought. He had a laser-like focus, and a singleminded tenacity. Like a dog with a bone. That's what I admired most about him. He will be missed.

John Adams - April 30, 2018 at 01:49 PM

SW

*Thank you, John.
-Shane, Kent's nephew, leading graveside service*

Shane Whisler - May 02, 2018 at 06:05 PM

MP

*August 1977 at Kent's house in Mission Viejo, CA..
All three of us were too young to buy booze, but all three of us were serving our country and partying hard that weekend. My God, it's hard to believe that was 40 years ago. Notice the Che poster in the background? Kent was known as the "Red Corporal" when he served in MCAS Okinawa. Interesting to see how far right his political persuasion shifted after 9/11. I attended the graduation ceremony for class 106, and even got a 106 t-shirt. (Kent asked me to return it years later 'cause he had lost his originals.)*

Kent's and my lives were so grossly intertwined from 1962-1984 that I've had a hard time extracting myself from the Memory Mill for the past week. Kent won the "Who'd Die First?" competition that we set up in a seedy room of the Commodore Hotel in Memphis back in 1974. I'll be there to grant you final farewell, Brother. You're the only one who knows how deeply I loved you. There are lots of other friends left from the good old days - but none that share the same set of basic, deep maturation experiences that we did. (That book writin' thing that I talked about earlier...)

Mike Piper - May 04, 2018 at 02:39 AM

SW

*Thank you, Mike for all you shared, especially for naming the source of his rightward swing. That really baffled me.
Peace,
Shane, Kent's nephew, leading graveside service.*

Shane Whisler - May 04, 2018 at 08:41 PM

MP

“ Kent and I were best friends in kindergarten. He used to live with his grandfather Jack, and I would help him do his math homework after school while he talked to girls on the phone. They always put us in separate classes in grade school because we were such partners in crime. We learned to smoke cigarettes together. I took him to the Marine recruiter in '74 and chickened out when it came time to sign the contract. I could write a book about all the groundbreaking experiences we had together. I served as Best Man at two of Kent's weddings and he was a guest of honor at mine. Still got a photo of him on his chopped Sportster in SoCal in '77. Right now I'm looking at a 9mm hole in my bookcase that we put there at 3 a.m. on a cold and snowy January night in '93. Kent, you're the only guy for whom I would shoot a book <he-he>.

Mike Piper - April 29, 2018 at 10:30 AM

CP

“ Kent and I served in headquarters at UDT-21. I was a newly minted Ensign, fresh from BUD/S. Kent was an old hand, helping out Master Chief Boynton running the OPs shop. Kent treated me as a teammate from day one. Soon we were assigned together TAD to NASA, collecting "space junk" from various places around the world. We later operated together in Central America, where, again, Kent's sense of humor and operational skill made for many successful and memorable ops. Kent contributed to UDT-21's smooth transition to ST-4. No small task. As a member of the cadre and as a Platoon Chief, Kent helped to build ST-4's legendary jungle capabilities. As a combat swimmer and SPECWAR Operator, Kent had few equals. As a leader he was respected by all hands. I am proud to have called him a friend, and honored to have been his teammate. Fair winds, my brother. You are missed.

Chuck Pfarrer

Class 114

UDT-21, ST-4, DEVGRU

Chuck Pfarrer - April 26, 2018 at 01:46 PM

MS

“ I knew Kent from the summer of '79 when we classed up 105. By the time hell week came, we both were pulled from the class and put on med hold...me with hair line fractures in each leg and a full leg cast on one leg. Kent had a half cast on his fractured leg. So began our decades long friendship. we had 9 weeks to recover and class up with 106. yes that is right, we both were roll backs...right along with 20 or so others. our lives crossed over the years in the teams and my wife Vicki and I were always glad to see him at our door step in Coronado. We as well made a few trips to OK these last few years to spend some quality time him laughing and kidding each other like always. Kent has been a lifelong friend and a brother. Fair winds and following seas my brother. Our prayers go out to Leah and her family.

Michael Simmons

EMCM (SEAL) Ret

Class 106

mike simmons - April 25, 2018 at 04:11 PM

MS

“ I knew Kent from the summer of '79 when we classed up 105. By the time hell week came, we both were pulled from the class and put on med hold...me with hair line fractures in each leg and a full leg cast on one leg. Kent had a half cast on his fractured leg. So began our decades long friendship. we had 9 weeks to recover and class up with 106. yes that is right, we both were roll backs...right along with 20 or so others. our lives crossed over the years in the teams and my wife Vicki and I were always glad to see him at our door step in Coronado. We as well made a few trips to OK these last few years to spend some quality time him laughing and kidding each other like always. Kent has been a lifelong friend and a brother. Fair winds and following seas my brother. Our prayers go out to Leah and her family.

Michael Simmons
EMCM (SEAL) Ret
Class 106

mike simmons - April 25, 2018 at 03:47 PM

 Ross
Thomas

“ I worked with Kent while he was the Platoon Chief for ST-4's 6th Platoon. He had the perfect sense of wit and timing that keep the platoon moving in the right direction for almost two years, including a MED deployment. Above all, he was a professional, dedicated to ensure the platoon was ready to meet any and all challenges. He'll be missed for sure.

V/R
Ross B. Thomas

Ross Thomas - April 23, 2018 at 10:22 AM

RH

“ I served with Kent..I have no complaints....we spent some time in Nicaragua together when it wasn't pleasant and laughed a bunch..Only he and I will ever know the humor in this: “Con Rich and Kent todo easta mejor.”....good by old friend....r

rh - April 21, 2018 at 05:08 PM

JR

“ Kent and I went to DLI together, Fair Winds my friend, I was honored to know you. You made me feel like your shipmate from the first meet. I will never forget our run on 17 mile drive. Miss you buddy. My heartfelt condolences to your family.

Jonathan Roudabush

Jonathan Roudabush - April 21, 2018 at 04:38 PM

DT

“ Truly one of those to be remembered as the glue that held a team together

Fair winds and following seas Teammate

Don Thompson - April 21, 2018 at 01:17 PM

KB

“ After graduation our encounter were not often enough, however, I was always encouraged and inspired when we met.

Ken Ballard - April 21, 2018 at 12:45 PM

SP

“ Both of us were from Oklahoma, so we shared that and other commonalities. While Kent was at UDT-21, I was aboard ST-2 on the East Coast and we saw each other often. In Latin America, Kent was one of the most experienced SEALs in the community. He was a great example for all, and had a career to be envied. The embodiment of Service and Professionalism, and taken from us too soon. Although I am saddened by his passing, I am grateful to have known and served with such a man.

Sean Pybus
Vice Admiral, Retired
BUDS Class 105

Sean Pybus - April 21, 2018 at 12:00 PM

RB

“ Kent and I were in the same Platoon together back when I first came into the Teams in UDT-21. We did a Med Cruise together and I remember we shared a lot of laughs. He was a valuable member of our Platoon and he will be sorely missed!

Russ Baker

Russ Baker - April 21, 2018 at 10:11 AM

JD

“ Kent was my first chief in the Teams, and we did a Med Cruise together. Lots of training and lots of laughs. He will be missed.

JD S.

JD - April 21, 2018 at 10:07 AM

JS

“ Kent was a plank holder in SEAL Team FOUR, and a key to the transition of UDT-21 to a SEAL Team and its missions in Latin America. His professionalism was an inspiration to many, and his distinguished Navy career honored America and the value of selfless military service that makes us a great nation.

Very respectfully,

John F. Sandoz, Commanding Officer, SEAL Team FOUR

John Sandoz - April 21, 2018 at 09:18 AM