



Dale Eugene Mortensen

July 31, 1956 - December 21, 2022

Dale Eugene Mortensen of Cadillac passed away, Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was 66.

Dale was born July 31, 1956 in Cadillac to Emmett and Joyce (Moomey) Mortensen.

He graduated from Manton High School where he met his mentor, Smitty, his junior year English teacher. Smitty helped guide him to his path in the United States Navy. Dale became emancipated at age 17 and enlisted in the United States Navy. He was given the nickname, Mort, which followed him throughout his career.

Dale began his career at the end of the Vietnam War and had served as a GMG1. He had served on numerous ships for many long durations. He served on the USS Edson and USS Long Beach. Dale was a plank owner on the USS Iowa for 14 years. He was in Turret One when Turret Two exploded on April 19, 1989; he was responsible for securing the weapons and helping to identify the fallen after the explosion. Dale loved his career and was very dedicated to the Navy.

On July 10, 1999 in Standish, Michigan he married Deborah Kay Thorner and she survives him along with two daughters, eight grandchildren; eight great-

grandchildren; his mother-in-law, Phyllis Thorner and brother-in-laws: Joseph (Sharon) Thorner, Donald (Becky) Thorner and Andrew (Amy) Thorner and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emmett Mortensen and Joyce (Moomey) Cornell, by his first wife, Sharon and his father-in-law, Donald Thorner.

In accordance with Dale's wishes cremation has taken place.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

AT

“ *What man i his early 20’s adopts two girls that aren’t his own because his wife has cancer and is dying? That tells you what kind of Dad my Dad was. He loved us without fail and was the best Dad I could have ever wished for. I miss him endlessly, I love you Dad, Annette!*

Annette Tamul - August 19, 2023 at 04:02 AM

JK

“ *Condolences, Mort would give you the shirt off of his back. I knew him when I was serving at NUSC and he was on the Newman K. Perry. He was one of the witnesses for my marriage. He is missed. Joy Ellen Kuharske BM-5 NUSC, Newport, RI*

Joy Kuharske - July 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM

MP

“ *Deb and Family,
I'm so sorry to hear of Morts passing, he was one of my best friends in the First Class Mess on the IOWA along with BM1 Jackie Plott & BM1 Ken Stiffler. Mort and I made the emergency repairs that allowed us to down load all the 16" projectiles left in the hoists. I was just thinking about him the other day and mentioned it to GMG1 Brad Cole, it was he who told me the sad news. So in closing, a Sailors send off.*

"Rest easy Sailor, ship your oars, your watch is done, we your Shipmates now have that watch, go and be at peace with our Eternal Father."

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

Martin (Marty) Palmiere EMC(SW) USN(ret.) USS Iowa BB-61 '83-'89

Marty Palmiere - March 24, 2023 at 09:22 PM

GS

“ *Mort was my LPO in Turret One aboard the Iowa. I learned 16" gunnery from him. I was just thinking of him a few days ago and tried to see if he was on Facebook. My condolences to the family.*

Grady Stegall - February 27, 2023 at 09:09 AM

TG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear this sadness. My memories of Dale were always fun. He just had a way to create happy times. Deb, my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Teresa Guyton - January 19, 2023 at 06:18 PM