



Dennis James VanOsten

January 8, 2024

Dennis James VanOsten, age 69, passed away surrounded by loved ones on Monday, January 8, 2024.

Dennis was born and raised in Fairmount, preceded in death by his parents, Leigh and Rose Van Osten, his brothers Buddy, Richard and Charles VanOsten. Survived by his brother, Kenny (Pat), his wife, Leslee (Wright), his daughter Shannon (Brian) and his twin granddaughters, who he loved so much. Along with many of his loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was drafted into the army at the age of 17, Special Forces, where he went on to be the 5th youngest to graduate Paratrooper school at Fort Bragg. He was very proud to be a veteran.

He had an affinity to living life by his own rules, fought authority and was known for his lack of patience and speaking "softly".

In 2000, he moved to Brigantine where he became an avid fisherman. He loved driving along the surf each morning to see what would wash up. He also became a member of the American Legion and the VFW Post.

His favorite pastimes included riding his Harley and shooting darts, along with stops at Harrahs and the Golden Nugget. Each time hoping that would be the

day his luck would change. "Somebody has to win, why can't it be me."

A viewing will be held Tuesday evening, January 16, 2024 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Dinan Funeral Home, 1923 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130. Burial will take place at Washington's Crossing National Cemetery, 830 Highland Road, Newtown PA 18940, promptly at 11:30am on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

"We will always carry your memory in our hearts"

Tribute Wall

EK

“ RIP Dennis. I knew him from the Parkway house and pool across the street. He kove budweiser and Windsor Canadian. He was a patriot, rebel and king soul. I know you're up in heaven riding your hog, having g a great time. Ride on bro.

Erik Kudenko - February 20, 2025 at 11:17 PM

DZ

“ I was in ft bragg when I met Dennis , called him "Bear" . He was tough like that. He was fun and crazy ...really loved jumping out of c130's....we all did.
We were in same company , about a years worth, ...he had a funny kind of laugh!
David Zayas, HHC, XVIII, Sky Dragons.

David Zayas - December 25, 2024 at 08:59 PM



Would like to learn more about that time.Les

Leslee Wright - January 13, 2025 at 03:50 PM

EE

“ We used to play on Judson Street where my Grandparents Brown lived. He was my first kiss at 10 years old. As we got older we hung out with the same crowd. He had a great sense of humor. I will miss Dennis so much.
My prayers for him and his family. May he Rest in Peace.



Eileen Brown Elliott - June 09, 2024 at 05:58 PM

KL

“ Kathleen Lutz lit a candle in memory of
Dennis James VanOsten



Kathleen Lutz - June 08, 2024 at 11:58 PM

JM

“ Jeanie Regina Myers lit a candle in memory
of Dennis James VanOsten



Jeanie Regina Myers - February 20, 2024 at 02:02 PM

BH

“ Lived with me for awhile Crazy times.
I don't have Facebook missed his viewing.
Bear Rest In Peace.
Brian Hunt

Brian Hunt - February 11, 2024 at 10:52 AM

SR

“ I met Dennis and Leslee in the 80's at The
Parkway House in Philadelphia. Dennis
quickly became one of my favorite people,
always with a smile and great sense of
humor! I remember him on his Harley, and
quick rides around the block so I wouldn't be scared to ride on a
motorcycle! He was the kind of guy that would give you the shirt off
his back, so kind and gentle. RIP Bear, you were loved by so many!



Sharon Richardson - January 17, 2024 at 07:27 PM

SY

“ I have known Dennis since he was that little pesky kid on Judson Street. He was the youngest, but he left an impression on everyone. Goodbye for now, see you in the hereafter one day.

Sandi mooney young - January 15, 2024 at 11:35 AM

SL

“ Dennis was one of my best friends. I remember being at la casa 22 kt club. He would start singing Me & Bobby McGee. He was a gentle giant. When the club closed he would say let's take a ride.. Talking, singing and laughing down to the shore He would make one stop for beer. Den rip my dear friend. I love you
Sharlene

Sharlene Lerner-Seiger - January 13, 2024 at 03:20 PM

KC

“ RIP Uncle Den, you were a cool guy. As a kid I always felt safe in the neighborhood when guys like you were hanging out. Now I hope you feel safe in Heaven's hands. Rest easy Until we meet again. ❤️🙏



Kim Cornish Cornaglia - January 13, 2024 at 02:26 PM

JF

“ My condolences ,Dennis (Bear) was a great guy and good friend. from 1 of the Saturday Morning South Street crew! Joe (Faz) Fesi. RIP.

Joe Fesi - January 13, 2024 at 12:12 PM

YM

“ Rest well Dennis, childhood friend from Judson St. it was a time of racial exclusion but you and your family were kind and loving

Yolanda Ramo Marinucci - January 13, 2024 at 07:11 AM

CS

“ I have known Dennis since the 1980s and when he lived in the Parkway House where I still live. He was kind and sweet. He would do anything for you. Good times at the Best Western pool. He lived and loved his red Harley. ❤️



Carol Sarubin - January 12, 2024 at 03:09 PM

JB

“ John Beach lit a candle in memory of Dennis James VanOsten



John Beach - January 11, 2024 at 07:04 PM

JB

Dennis was good friend he will be missed see you in heaven. 🙏🙏🙏

John Beach - January 11, 2024 at 07:07 PM

RC

What a real good guy,I did not know anyone who did not like Dennis,Rest easy Den

Rock Clancy - January 13, 2024 at 02:03 AM