



## Dennis Patrick Eldridge

July 7, 1951 - April 26, 2021

Dennis Patrick Eldridge, 69, of Glenmont, NY picked up his hiking stick and began his final journey to Heaven, succumbing to his battle with a glioblastoma on April 26, 2021. He passed peacefully at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's in Albany. He was welcomed into Heaven by his mother Patricia Nolan Eldridge and father Warren D. Eldridge of Guilderland, NY.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 44 years, Patricia Butner Eldridge and his sons SFC Matthew C Eldridge (Candance) and Ryan Patrick Eldridge. He leaves behind his beloved siblings; Pamela Eldridge, Kevin (Lynn) Eldridge, Ann Marie Bitting, and Maureen (Keith) Sabol, his loving Godmother/aunt Joan Adam, Aunt Berri Geier, Uncle Bill Scharoun and his Five grandchildren; Connor, Skye, Gunner Eldridge (Matthew's) and Trinity Bess-Eldridge and Raven Eldridge (Ryan's) as well as his beloved brothers and sister in laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Dennis worked at Farm Family/American National for 45 years, where he rose from the mailroom, to claims department, to research and development, to Director of Property Claims before retiring. He made incredible friendships through his experiences in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and West Virginia. He lived in Pennsylvania from 1976-1993 working from the Trenton, NJ office for 17 years. He was a member of EEA (Experimental Aircraft Association of PA) where he helped others in the building of their light aircraft. He earned his private pilot's license, with most of his flying in Cessnas. He loved hiking, fly fishing, canoeing, and experiencing the woods, mountains and lakes of northern Maine, especially Sebec Lake in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine. The early Eldridge family lived on and near Sebec Lake, and so he took great pleasure being able to vacation there over a span of 30 years. He proudly climbed Mount Katahdin and Borestone, in Maine, several times with his wife and children. He taught his children about hiking, spending time on the lake, searching for moose, enjoying the loons and the eagles on the lake, and connecting to his family on the dairy farm in Dexter, Maine. He transferred that love of the outdoors with his wife, children, family and friends in the Adirondacks, and locally at Five Rivers Environmental Center in Delmar, NY. He would often hike at Five Rivers every day, especially at dusk, so that he could view the deer, birds and various wildlife there. He loved Thacher Park and the Audubon preserves. He was a member of

the Northeast Woodworkers Association and enjoyed working within his group at Ann Lee Farm location and with his mentor, Warren Stoker and his woodworkers, often showcasing their work at the annual show in Saratoga, NY. Dennis created beautiful furniture over the years. He made his wife a cedar lined hope chest with only hand tools and hand rubbed finish. When Den did a project, he put his thought, energy and soul into it. Dennis had a great love of history, especially the Civil War, Regional History, and World War II. He loved baseball, being a batboy for the Twilight League in Albany in his youth. Whatever Dennis attempted in life, he would always give it his all. He had an incredible work ethic and valued education, He had an eclectic taste in music from folk to Broadway to bagpipes. He enjoyed live concerts and musicals, basically he loved a good story. Over the years he saw in concert several times; John Denver, Harry Chapin, Judy Collins, Joan Baez, John Prine and Arlo Guthrie. He loved to hear his brother Kevin and his friend Michael play the guitar. In his youth, he loved to accompany his wife on harmonica while she played the guitar to entertain their children. He had a love of poetry from Rod McKuen to Robert Service (The Cremation of Sam McGee) But above all things, Dennis loved his family. His fondest memories were of traveling to NY for Yankees games with his Uncle Joe and a carload of cousins. He took great pleasure in watching his sons play sports; baseball, hockey, football, lacrosse, and swim meets. How proud he was when Ryan played on his traveling hockey team and Matthew played on HVCC's football team for their first winning year! He was thrilled that his father was able to travel to West Point to see Matthew's team beat the West Point JV! He will be missed by so many...but oh the memories we have. Dennis is having a "green funeral" which is so in keeping with who he was. His funeral Mass will be Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 9am at St. Patrick's Church, Ravena with a graveside service to follow at Calvary Cemetery in Glenmont, NY. A reception will be held at The Pavilion at The Crossings in Colonie at 11:30. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Friends of Five Rivers at 56 Game Farm Rd. Delmar, NY 12054, or The Church of St. Patrick, 21 Main St. Ravena, NY 12143.

# Cemetery

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## **Calvary Cemetery, Glenmont**

481 Route 9W

Glenmont, NY, 12077

# Events

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**MAY** **Funeral Mass** 09:00AM

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St. Patrick's Church-Coeymans

21 Main Street, Ravena, NY, US, 12143

**MAY** **Graveside service** 10:30AM

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