



Mark Dean

September 3, 1949 - July 5, 2024

Former Yreka Chamber of Commerce Director, and advocate for Veterans, Mark Dean passed away July 5, surrounded by his wife, daughters, grandson, brother and sister-in-law. Always putting his family first, Mark was a beloved father, husband, grandpa, brother, and a faithful friend to many who will be greatly missed.

Mark was born in Santa Ana, California, to Frank and Barbara Dean. He was raised in Newport Beach, where he enjoyed summers at the beach, fishing, water skiing, and travelling throughout Baja California and Mexico. He loved playing football for Newport Harbor High School, except for the broken legs! In 1968, the deadliest year of the Vietnam War, Mark enlisted in the Navy. Shortly after boot camp he was deployed on the USS Aludra conducting multiple combat supply replenishments throughout Vietnam and the Tonkin Gulf. 1969 brought his second tour which included missions on "Mike" boats to Navy and Marine units in the field. At Camp Pendelton his dental training included qualification as a corpsman, better known as "Doc". He volunteered to assist training "green" Marines for combat.

Mark's third tour to Vietnam in 1971 was aboard the legendary aircraft carrier USS Midway. To help bring his brothers home, he volunteered for combat recovery and for the identification of wounded and deceased Marines.

Before deployment Mark met the love of his life, Suzy. He proposed, and they married one week after his discharge in 1972. They made their home in Costa Mesa. He completed an A.A. at Orange Coast College, and they started their

family with the birth of their first daughter, Sarah, in 1977. In 1978 they moved to a family ranch in Montague where Mark worked the land for three years. With the birth of their daughter Jessica the family moved to historic Yreka in 1980.

Working in the California oil fields for two years required long separations from his young family, so he resigned himself to working nights at Gil's Markets. He learned the Chamber of Commerce was seeking a new director and applied. Thus began a twenty-four-year career serving the city and citizens of Yreka. He guided the Chamber as it grew from a small cabin on Main Street to a prominent store front which welcomed travelers, promoted city businesses, tourism, and attracted the community to stop in and visit the soda fountain. Mark's varied skills and creativity ranged from resurrecting YCTV, Yreka's Cable program, to establishing the Economic Council program of Siskiyou County. From the beginning of Mark's tenure, four-term Mayor Rory McNeil witnessed the revitalization of Yreka's commerce and community.

Remembering Mark's service, McNeil said "He was a smart leader who surrounded himself with good people. He was very persuasive to get things done. Brutally honest and with a great sense of humor, he deflected praise to others. He was the top of the pyramid under which the city prospered."

Mark was focused on fostering the city businesses while bringing in new business to Yreka, including Edward Jones and Walmart. He revitalized established community events like the Yreka daytime Christmas parade which became the largest in the region. He launched new events too--Cruise Night, Sock Hop, Sidewalk Sales (featuring Cow Pie Bingo), Car Shows, and the annual Christmas Dinner Dances that regularly sold out, to name a few.

Mark worked with Congressman Herger to install the freeway business and services signs outside of town. With the congressman he persuaded the governor to design an attractive "Welcome to California" by including the California poppy. Coming from a family background in law enforcement, Mark also advocated for Yreka police and Siskiyou County Sheriffs. He managed two successful electoral campaigns for Sheriff Rick Riggins.

Mark also served the Yreka business community as Rotary Club President and was named a Paul Harris Fellow. As a faithful Mason, Mark attained the Third-Degree Master Mason and 33rd degree Scottish Rite who was committed to his lodge and its activities. He was honored with the Hiram Award, the highest recognition for a lay person of the 33rd degree. He was a beloved member of the Elks Lodge and a member of the American Legion. Mark served longer than any other Chamber of Commerce Director in California. It is no wonder that he was named Yreka Citizen of the Year in 2007, and that November 17 has been proclaimed "Mark Dean Day." His experience in the Navy and as a Marine corpsman as a young man led to his greatest passion later in life: promoting the care, support, and honor of veterans. He shared his leadership skills as the Veterans Service Representative of the Siskiyou County Sheriffs' Department, chaired the Siskiyou County Veterans Leadership Council, and the Fallen Heroes Memorial Project (Weed), and also served as Adjutant to the Commander of the Siskiyou Detachment of the Marine Corps League and was active in their Honor Guard.

Mark loved to ride his Harley with his buddies and took many rides across the country including Alaska. Mark and Mike Murphy partnered in the "Run to the Wall" ride from California to D.C. to honor veterans and remember those killed or missing in action.

Mark dreamt of a Veteran's section in the Evergreen Cemetery. Under his leadership and with his "get 'er done" attitude, his dream was realized in the acquisition of the plots, in the design, implementation, upkeep and recent landscaping. It is sweet and fitting that this is where he will be laid to rest with his compatriots in arms.

Mark was a man's man with a heart of gold who was deeply devoted to his wife, children and grandchildren. He was their hero, always present to come to their aid and created wonderful memories that will be with them forever. He modeled the hallowed words, "Duty, Honor, Courage" in his love for family and

service to his country and community where he holds deep respect and honor. Mark leaves behind his wife, Suzy; daughters Sarah (Mike), and Jessica (Ben); grandchildren Drew, Jenna, Maddison and Olivia; brother, Scott (Cynthia).

Graveside Service will be Sunday July 14, 11.00 a.m. at the Evergreen Cemetery, Yreka.

Celebration of Life, eulogies, and a luncheon will follow at the Yreka Elks Lodge at Noon.

In lieu of flowers please direct memorial contributions to the Siskiyou County Veterans Commission, c/o Mike Murphy, 5007 Indian Island Dr., Weed CA 96094, or the Veterans program of your choice.

Tribute Wall

VS

“ I served with Mark as members of Yreka Rotary for many years and several of those as board members together. I always appreciated his positive attitude, quick wit, and community spirit. My heart goes out to his family, his friends, and his Yreka community. We lost another good one, they don't make them like him anymore!

Veanne Smith-Hogun - July 23, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I knew M. Dean. We did well together for many years.. A good person.
J. Dorsey

J Dorsey - July 16, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ An amazing blessing to our community. May everlasting love get the family through this difficult time.Fondly ,Terry and Shannon Salvestro

Anonymous - July 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ I have fond memories of Mark and his leadership in the Yreka Chamber. The years at Grandma's House Restaurant were made better by Marks efforts to help Yreka and our local businesses. He always had a smile and we had some good times. More recently, at Miner St. Meat Market and Black Bart's Grill, we kept in touch with Mark (and Suzy) sharing fun memories of our past. One recent disappointment I have is our failure in trying to resurrect the Yreka Chamber of Commerce. I was hoping it would be part of his legacy. I wanted to erect a Wall of Fame somewhere to honor those like Mark Dean who helped create a Yreka we all grew up to love. Well Mark...you're on my wall anyway. RIP my friend.

Kenny Barnes - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Carol, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Daniel, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Jackie, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Janine, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Linda, from Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Marge! Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you MaryLou, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Patty! Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Susanna, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thank you Tim, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thanks Gary and Kathy, Scott Dean, Mark's brother.

Scott Dean - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Those were fun times your right! Tell your husband I say "perfect dad" (golf clap👏) from our golfing days 😊

Jessica - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Ty Jackie 🙏

Jessica - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Ty Janine & Brett 🙏

Jessica - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Ty Marge, for all your love and support over the years! Xoxo

Jessica - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Ty pat for all your prayers and support! 🙏

Jessica - July 11, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for Mark Dean - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ An amazing American, Community Man, and everything else already mentioned. Truly someone who made a difference and left his mark on lives and the City of Yreka.

Rest in peace Mark

Hugs to Suzy and family

Carol Hockaday Forneris - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Great, awesome man who deeply cared for our community.

Daniel Webster - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ He served his community with love n caring. Condolences to his family n friends.

MaryLou LaCom - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I was on the Chamber board while Mark was the manager. He did so much for the community, most people would never understand the dedication, time, and heartache that goes with the position. RIP Mark.

Patty Morrison Crechriou - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I'm so sorry to hear this❤️ He was so good to my Dad😊 and to this community!!! Sending prayers to Susie and the family💕🙏💕
Brett&Janine ❤️

Janine Ling Kimball - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Mark was a dedicated servant to his community. RIP

Tim Avery - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ Mark was so loved by his wife Suzi. She and her sister Carol are special ladies. I did not know the girls personally. But I prayed for all of them in our Ladies Bible Studies. Mark's community accomplishments especially with one of my favorite causes Veterans touched my heart. His service in Vietnam was always something I appreciated. Those soldiers were rudely treated by our government and the American people. Mark was outspoken but He used his pain to do much to help Veterans. Praying for his family especially Suzi. Thank you for your courageous service for our county and Veterans. Love Kathy Preszler

Gary And Kathy Preszler - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ My heart hurts for all of you. God bless you all. RIP mark. All your hard work was appreciated by those that knew you

Marge Dole - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ RIP Mark, sorry for your loss 🙏

KimLen Perreira - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ RIP Mark.

Linda Keno - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *RIP, you'll be missed by the Veterans. Thank you Mark for your service to the community and the Veterans.* 🙏

Jackie Roy Churchill - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Sending loving thoughts and deepest condolences to Suzy and families. I have just so many wonderful memories of all of the fun events that we worked together on through KSYC! Those were GOOD TIMES! Then , in these later years, anytime we saw you guys, it was always great catching up! His legacy will live on and his dedication and hard work for the causes that were near and dear to his heart will never be forgotten! Rest in peace Mark!* ❤️👍💙🇺🇸

Susana Fox-Sponsler - July 10, 2024 at 12:00 AM