



## Dennis Michael Stepura

August 1, 1969 - December 23, 2025

Dennis Michael Stepura, 56, of Indian Head, Maryland

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Dennis Michael Stepura on December 23, 2025. He died suddenly during his workday at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Maryland.

Dennis is survived by his parents, Stanley and Barbara Stepura, uncles and aunts, Kenneth Stepura, Joan Balacek, Katherine Dennis, Patricia Sondrol and Susan (Bob) Steinberg and cousins Evan and Dylan Steinberg, extended family, friends and co-workers. Dennis was preceded in death by his older sister, Christie Marie Stepura and grandparents Stanley and Violet Stepura and Emily and Joseph Roszak.

Born in Silver Spring, Maryland on August 1, 1969, Dennis grew up in Charles County. After graduating from McDonough High School, he joined the US Marine Corps where he served his country proudly. From the infantry, he gained certification and became an explosives ordnance disposal (EOD) technician. After 12 years of military service, his expertise enabled him to transition to a civilian Department of Defense position at Indian Head where his work supported the EOD warfighters in the field. He was passionate about this mission.

Growing up, Dennis spent his summer weekends at his family's cottage on Chesapeake Bay where he enjoyed boating, fishing and crabbing with family and friends.

In recent years, Dennis has become a Kansas City Barbeque Society Master Judge. He spent many weekends traveling to barbeque competitions on the East Coast and in the Midwest. He has participated in more than 100 competitions and gained a new circle of friends. Perfect for a foodie who loves to travel.

He brought great joy to family gatherings. We could always anticipate a couple of lottery tickets beneath the dinner plate. As plates were lifted, coins were distributed to scratch the tickets in anticipation of the big win. We were always big winners in love, laughter, and fun.

Dennis was a friendly, outgoing, and kind person who loved life to its fullest. He was proud of his service to his country both in military and civilian life. He will be sorely missed.

Visitation will be on Friday, January 9, 2026 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM, at Raymond Funeral Service, 5635 Washington Ave, La Plata, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to [www.eodwarriorfoundation.org](http://www.eodwarriorfoundation.org). Or EOD Warrior Foundation, 716 Crestview Avenue, Niceville, FL 32578.

Private interment at Cheltenham Military Cemetery will be scheduled.

# Cemetery Details

## Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Hwy  
Cheltenham, MD 20623

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 9. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Service , P.A.  
5635 Washington Avenue  
La Plata, MD 20646

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ *OMG, I just heard the sad news. Dennis was a close BBQ friend (that's how we met). We always talked to no end because we were two peas in a pod.*

*RIP dear Dennis. Earlier we lost Ercole, and now this. Be well and be safe out there.*

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**John Kereks** - March 26 at 09:04 PM



“ *Truly one of the greatest KCBS judges and representative of the sport. His presence will be missed at all events for a long time RIP my friend*

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**Robert Burzy** - January 30 at 02:18 PM

TH

“ *Dennis and I became friends through KCBS and I enjoyed judging with him at many contests.*

*Our conversations usually centered on food, restaurants, and local finds near the competition location. It's going to be difficult being in the tent without him. He will be missed by his BBQ family.*

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**Tracie Hamula** - January 23 at 06:45 PM

BS

“ *So sorry to hear the news. I remember judging a BBQ event in Bozman, MT and who do I see but Dennis. It was always fun running into him. He will be missed.*

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**Bryan Stewart** - January 21 at 09:10 PM

MC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dennis passing. I enjoyed speaking with him at KCBS events and sharing stories. He would write a comment card on every entry on his plate and kept a spreadsheet of his scores from every contest. He will be sorely missed and I offer my condolences to his family

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**Mike Cantore** - January 21 at 07:54 PM

KA

“ Dennis was a tremendous help to me as a new BBQ judge. He was thorough and and friendly and I always enjoyed judging with him. He will be missed on so many levels.

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**Kevin Adler** - January 21 at 06:57 PM

KT

“ Dennis was a very valuable KCBS. He always left a comment to help teams.

Tom and I always looked forward to seeing him in Mass in May and Kora.

With great love and BBQ support. You will be missed.

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**Kathy "BBQ MOM" Trainor** - January 21 at 06:23 PM

LD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dennis' passing. We were always happy to see him at barbecue contests and receive his feedback on our latest efforts. We will miss the laughs and great conversation. Rest in peace, my friend.

Lisa

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**Lisa Dommes** - January 21 at 02:59 PM

LI

*Dennis will be very missed at the KCBS events. His laughter and friendly smile will be remembered.  
My condolences to his family.  
May his memory be an eternal blessing.  
Linda*

Linda - January 21 at 05:57 PM

FF

“ *Fortaleza Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis Michael Stepura.*

Fortaleza Family - January 10 at 11:18 PM

FF

“ *Fortaleza Family purchased the Footprints Tribute Blanket for the family of Dennis Michael Stepura.*



Fortaleza Family - January 10 at 11:18 PM

FF

“ *I do not remember meeting with Dennis however his parents are very good neighbors , always looking after neighbors as families. I can imagine the fun Dennis brought to his family upon reading the obituary, To Stan and Barbara, my family and I are with you in celebrating the life of your beautiful son. We are also praying that you receive comfort and peace while you're mourning for the loss of your dear son. We believe God is taking care of you and Dennis' own family. May God be with you at all times.*

Fortaleza Family - January 10 at 11:09 PM

CB

“ We had never met Dennis, but can be absolutely sure that he was a wonderful person through knowing his parents. We have had the privilege of having Barbara stay with us over several plein air painting events, and she could not be a more lovely person--always cheerful and upbeat and ready to tackle anything that comes her way. We are so saddened that Barbara and Stan have lost their son--no one should ever have to experience the heartbreak of losing a child. Our hearts go out to them. Claudia & Paul Brookes

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**Claudia & Paul Brookes** - January 09 at 10:25 AM

CB

“ Claudia B. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis Michael Stepura.

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**Claudia B.** - January 09 at 10:13 AM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Dennis Michael Stepura.



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January 08 at 01:17 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Dennis Michael Stepura.



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January 05 at 08:34 PM

LM

“ Lynn and Taj Mehta purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dennis Michael Stepura.



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**Lynn and Taj Mehta** - January 05 at 04:22 PM

LM

“ Lynn and Taj Mehta planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis Michael Stepura.

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**Lynn and Taj Mehta** - January 05 at 04:22 PM

KD

“ I was Denny's godmother and I fed him his first blueberry popsicle in the summer of 1970. I bought him his barbecue when he bought his house and he thanked me with a big steak dinner. Every time I flew into town from the West Coast he made an appearance and he would take me to breakfast. He loves swap meets and he loved the thrift store. He loved his family and was always so kind and respectful toward all of us at the same time he seemed to live in this moment I was with the smile on his face and kindness it is hard. He's in a good place now how could he not be but I sent Barbara and Stan all of my prayers and love.

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**Katherine Balacek Dennis** - January 04 at 01:00 PM

KB

“ Katherine B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis Michael Stepura.

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**Katherine B.** - January 04 at 12:46 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis Michael Stepura.



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January 03 at 11:16 AM



“ I have known Dennis since he started working at Indian Head. He has been a good friend, and I will miss him terribly. We often did the shooting competitions in Ohio, and it was always a treat to spend that time with him. I will very much miss his good attitude, and the positive energy that he always exuded. He knew how to keep life interesting with things like his BBQ judging, travel, and many other things that would occupy his time. The world is a lesser place without him in it. RIP my friend.

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**Brian Feegle** - December 30, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ On behalf of the entire EOD Technology Center and Team Stump Neck, we extend our heartfelt condolences for your loss. Dennis was a valued member of our team, whose dedication to the EOD mission significantly enhanced the community's effectiveness. His contributions to the development of EOD publications and the cultivation of relationships with foreign EOD partners will leave a lasting impact on this generation of EOD operators and the next. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

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**Rick Hayes** - December 29, 2025 at 10:50 AM

CV

“ Dear Stepura Family,

*I was so saddened to hear of Dennis's sudden passing. His life was one of dedicated service, from his time as an EOD Marine to his vital work as a civilian. Reading about his passions and friendships, it's clear his impact was felt far and wide.*

*On behalf of myself and the Applied Energetic & Detection Systems W34 Team, please accept our heartfelt sympathies during this incredibly difficult time. He will be deeply missed!!!*

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**Chris Vazquetelles** - December 29, 2025 at 10:36 AM

VC

“ *Sharing a couple of pics of Dennis embracing the world while on work trip in India March 2012 (reposted from Legacy.com). We collaborated well on that trip, met our work objectives, and immersed in parts of a different culture. Dennis excelled at all those things and was always motivated for more. Condolences to the family and know that Dennis was regarded as a great team player.*



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**Valja Collingwood** - December 27, 2025 at 09:43 PM

JR

“ *So sad to hear of Denis's passing. Worked alongside him at EODTECHDIV, a great coworker. Always had a smile. Dedicated EOD tech. He will be missed. Rest In Peace!*

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**Jerry Roh** - December 27, 2025 at 09:12 PM

PH

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to all the family and friends. And to the EOD family. Such a huge loss. He was one of a kind!! RIP Dennis and I know you will be watching over us!

Pam Hooker - December 27, 2025 at 08:22 PM

DB

“ From your Colorado family, our deepest condolences and prayers to all of the Stepura Family.  
Dwain and Darlene Bush

Dwain Bush - December 27, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ From Aunt Sue: Den was always so kind to every one of us in this family. He only shared kind words and of course Maryland Blue Crabs every time we visited. His life was so accomplished that we were able to brag about him whenever we had the opportunity. We loved hearing his stories especially about time spent in the Marines. We became more of a barbecue aficionado because of him. I'm so glad that we had a lifetime with Den but are so sad it couldn't be longer.

Bob Steinberg - December 27, 2025 at 05:21 PM

CB

Barb and Stan, my heart breaks to hear the loss of your son. Prayers and hugs to both of you and to your extended family. Carole Bicknell

Carole Bicknell - December 27, 2025 at 08:26 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Bob Steinberg** - December 27, 2025 at 05:12 PM

FS

“ *Stan and Barbara, we are saddened to read of your son's passing. Please know that we are thinking of you.*

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**Fred and Colleen Smith** - December 26, 2025 at 09:11 PM

RF

“ *Stan and Barbara, we are so very saddened by this news and for your loss. I met Denny only once, but I remember distinctly how warm and kind he was. I have not doubt that he made a wonderful difference in this world, and that he positively touched many lives. With love and prayers, Renee and Frank*

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**Renee and Frank** - December 26, 2025 at 07:27 PM

JP

*My deepest sympathies for you loss; On behalf of the entire team, please accept our deepest condolences. Dennis was a valued member of our IPO team, our thoughts are with you. Prayers and love, The IPO team.*

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**Judi Plater** - December 27, 2025 at 11:14 AM

KD

*Please accept our deepest sympathies on the passing of Dennis. His unwavering commitment to serving our nation, a passion he demonstrated daily, was an inspiration to us all. He was a valued colleague and a true patriot who will be deeply missed. We will cherish our memories of him and keep the Stepura family in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Kurt Desque** - December 29, 2025 at 12:20 PM

D(

*Stan and Barbara please accept my deepest sympathies on the passing of Dennis. Dennis came to work for me in Iwakuni when he graduated from EOD School. He was always the first one to volunteer to deploy somewhere, and his dedication and thirst for knowledge never stopped. It was an honor and a privilege to have worked with him. I had spoken with him in early December at the EOD Symposium at the Gaylord. His dedication and commitment to serving EOD Techs world wide was amazing. He will be greatly missed. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.*

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**Dean Reik MGYSGT USMC (Ret)** - January 07 at 01:29 PM