



## William Mark Deskins

April 11, 1959 - October 21, 2023

William Mark Deskins, 64, of Waldorf, Maryland, passed away suddenly on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at his home.

Mark is survived by his wife Sherry; sons Joshua and his wife Anna, and Matthew; grandson Lucas; siblings Don Deskins Jr. and his wife Lou, Jack Deskins and his wife Lisa, Sandra Wickline and her husband Danny, and Sarah Deskins; also survived by numerous other relatives and friends.

Born on April 11, 1959 in Man, West Virginia, Mark is the son of the late Don Louie Deskins Sr. and Dora Leigh Deskins. Mark's education includes a Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University and Master's in Technology Management from the University of Maryland University College. His Executive education includes Harvard Business School and University of North Carolina.

Mark's career started as an Industrial Engineer in private industry in North Carolina for five years. His government career as an Industrial Engineer began at the Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in 1988. Promotions brought him to the NSWC headquarters staff where he worked strategic planning and corporate operations. He was selected for the NAVSEA's Commander's Development Program where he held highly responsible positions working on combat systems, strategic and

business planning at the Division and NAVSEA corporate level, and Program Executive Office (PEO) Program Management assignments.

From 2001 to 2007, Mark was the Deputy Program Manager for Inactive Ships (PMS 333) in PEO Ships where he was responsible for the management of the U.S. Navy's inactivation and disposal of conventionally-powered surface ships. Mark oversaw the decommissioning of 20 ships and the disposal of 46 ships including 1 for artificial reefing and the donation of the aircraft carrier ex-MIDWAY that operates today as a highly successful ship museum in San Diego.

Mark then became the Chief of Staff for Team Ships and was responsible for front office operations and executive management for surface ship acquisition, maintenance, modernization, and disposal. From February 2009 to May 2015, Mark was the Deputy Program Manager for Strategic and Theater Sealift (PMS 385), which included the commissioning of the first Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) and the Mobile Landing Platform (MLP) ships.

In May 2015, Mark rejoined the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Research, Development & Acquisition (ASN (RDA)) staff to serve as the Director, Acquisition Career Management, the Navy and Marine Corps' lead for the professional development and management of the entirety of the DoN acquisition workforce. Mark retired in March of 2019.

Mark enjoyed traveling, anything computer related, mentoring young adults, watching West Virginia University Mountaineers and Baltimore Ravens football games, home brewing, smoking barbeque on his big green egg, and spending time with family and friends. Mark, along with Sherry, mentored many couples preparing for marriage. He attended Life Point Church in Waldorf.

A gathering will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10:30AM until time of Memorial Service at 11AM at Life Point Church 10395 Berry Road, Waldorf, Maryland 20603 with Pastor Michael Rogalski officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Charles County, 2505 Davis Road, Waldorf, Maryland 20603 where Mark had volunteered.

# Previous Events

## Gathering

NOV 11. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Life Point Church  
10395 Berry Road  
Waldorf, MD 20603

## Memorial Service

NOV 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Life Point Church  
10395 Berry Road  
Waldorf, MD 20603

# Tribute Wall

HM

“ I'm so sorry to hear. I only got to work with Mark for a short time, but my primary memories are of him being very kind and able to bring some calm and humor into otherwise frustrating moments. -Helga Murray

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**Helga Murray** - November 08, 2023 at 12:35 PM

SB

“ Sherry and Family we are shocked and saddened to hear the devastating news of Marks passing. We only knew him for a very short time but we have treasured memories of our time together. It was a pleasure to have spent time with such a kind, caring and calm person.

*We will have a toast to his life.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Steven and Leigh Barker*



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**Steven Kenneth Barker** - November 03, 2023 at 11:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Mark Deskins.*



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October 30, 2023 at 09:02 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Mark’s passing. He was a great uncle to our boys and provided them with some wonderful experiences over the years, particularly on their visits to Maryland. He had a generous spirit which will be missed by all. Sherry, boys and family, please know we are praying for you as you grieve this tragic loss that you will know the presence of God and the comfort of the Holy Spirit as you grieve.*

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**Timothy Mattern** - October 29, 2023 at 11:36 PM



“ *Sherry and family. I am sorry to have heard this tragic news. I regret that I've never had the pleasure of meet Mark. I've heard wonderful things about him, as well as you Sherry. Scott speaks very highly of the both of you. It warms my heart to know you have been there for our boys. I lost my only brother 20 years ago, also to a sudden death. I can only imagine the pain that aches in the hearts of those close to him. We are praying for peace and comfort for ALL of you. If there is anything we can do to help any of you during this time. Please reach out. ~Michele Mattern*



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**Michele Mattern** - October 27, 2023 at 01:13 PM

KT

“ Sherry and the entire Deskins family - I am so sorry for your loss. Grief is the last act of love we give to our loved one. Where there is deep grief there is great love. Grief is a great rite of passage, it is a hero's journey of courage, of sacred battles, sorrow, love, joy and loss. Kim Toone (former coworker of Mark's)

Kim Toone - October 26, 2023 at 05:59 PM

DE

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Marks passing. I worked many years with him at NAVSEA and he was a great guy. He will be missed.



Deborah - October 26, 2023 at 10:51 AM

DU

“ We were so sorry to hear about Mark. He was a blessing to so many of us. Heaven has a new loved one, but for those left behind it is heartbreaking. Please know that you are in our thoughts and my prayers. Our Deepest Sympathy, ((HUGS)), Celia and Tony Dunay



dunay - October 26, 2023 at 07:42 AM

VS

“ I'm so sorry. I never met Mark, but God used him to lift my heart, because he cared about people. He would email a song that was perfect for whatever I was going through. I wish I had thanked Him more, and explained to him how much the songs helped. He even sponsored my son in the Christian ministry he is part of, another person Mark had not met. I passed by Mark one day at Bowers Hospice House. I had gone to pray for his family member. He was talking to someone, and I did not want to interrupt him. I wish now I had talked to him. He was a good person, caring, and he wanted to uplift others. I will be praying for each of his family members. If you need anything, please contact others. I know God will bless you with strength, comfort, and many friends who care.

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**Vickie Stover** - October 26, 2023 at 06:47 AM

LC

“ Mark was a wonderful man, loved by many. I worked with him on some projects when he attended Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. I will always remember his kindness and caring approach to others.  
Linda Crosby

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**Linda Crosby** - October 25, 2023 at 02:52 PM

MB

Mark's career with the U.S. Navy was exceptional. He served as the Director Acquisition Career Management for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

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**Mike Bruns** - October 28, 2023 at 11:02 AM

MJ

We are saddened by this news. We have lost a good man. Marian and John

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**Marian and John** - October 29, 2023 at 10:01 AM

RE

*I'll think of Mark while enjoying beers in exotic places! RIP Mark---* Red

Red - October 31, 2023 at 11:04 PM

SH

*So sorry to hear of Mark's passing. He will be deeply missed. Rest in peace Mark. ~ Shaun McElhinney (former coworker)*

Shaun - November 07, 2023 at 08:48 AM

TM

*We will miss Mark very much. Our deepest sympathies to Sherry & family. - Tina & Margie, Aurora Travel*

Tina & Margie - November 09, 2023 at 11:07 AM