



Andrew James Vuillemot

May 1, 1965 - July 7, 2022

Major Andrew “Drew” Vuillemot, USMC (ret.) passed away at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda late on July 7, 2022, after a prolonged battle with cancer. Despite leaving us earlier than expected, Drew lived a full life and was many things to those around him - a friend, a Marine, a father and husband. He always had time for friends and family and had a sharp wit and loud laugh at the ready. He always lived life to the fullest and was stubborn to the end.

Drew was born in Hammond, Indiana and moved to Michigan where he graduated from Saugatuck High School. From there, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in History. He was in the 6th Battalion and was in two companies - first in 33rd Company as a Plebe and then in 36th company for the remainder of his tenure. While at Navy, Drew never missed a chance to sing or hum “Hail to the Victors” loudly in the vicinity of his classmates that were from Ohio or were Ohio State Buckeye fans. He always loved the tradition of the Army/Navy rivalry and supported Navy Athletics every chance he had. Never one to mince words, he would want to let everyone know, “Go Navy! Beat Army!”

Drew was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduating from Navy on May 20, 1987. He attended The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico and Field Artillery Officer training at Ft. Sill Oklahoma. He was then stationed at Camp Pendleton as an artillery officer

with Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Like many of his peers, he answered the call to go to war and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq for Operation Desert Storm. His next assignment was at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., "The Oldest Post in The Corps" where he served as an artillery course writer for the Marine Corps Institute (MCI). His subsequent assignments included attending the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico; staff officer with the 10th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune; Commanding Officer of Battery C in 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment; Inspector-Instructor with 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment in Aurora, CO; Battalion Executive Officer for the Combined Arms Training Center in Camp Fuji, Japan. He also attended the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, where he earned a Master of Science in Information Technology Management.

His military awards include: The Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; the Navy Combat Action Ribbon; the Navy Unit Commendation Medal with Bronze Star; the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal; the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; the Southwest Asia Service Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; The Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; the Kuwait Liberation Medal presented by the Saudi Arabian government; the Kuwait Liberation Medal presented by the government of Kuwait; and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara by the United States Field Artillery Association.

He retired from active duty on May 31, 2007, after serving in Headquarters Service Battalion at Marine Corps Base Quantico. After retirement he continued his service to the country as a government contractor for VMWare in the information technology arena where he was a Client Solutions Director.

He deeply adored his wife Julie and children, James and Jeannine and they shared countless adventures

together. Drew and his family loved trips to Colorado to ski, Nashville for country music and any trip that involved hockey, baseball or Navy Football. Drew was always first to jump at the chance to travel and became the “travel agent“ planning trips and adventures for friends and family. To Drew, holidays were meant for fun, and he rarely missed the chance to enjoy celebrating with friends and family; including an annual St. Patrick’s Day tradition which began with breakfast and ended late in the evening. He also liked to cook his “family gumbo recipe” and hosted many Mardi Gras celebrations.

Drew was an avid sports fan, especially Navy football - and was an active member of the USNA '87 Tailgate Volunteer crew. He enjoyed spending his Saturdays during college football season setting up, cooking and spending time with his fellow Naval Academy classmates.

Drew was also a participant and fan of anything to do with baseball, hockey, and skiing. He coached youth hockey (even a few times when his children were NOT on his team) and was the team captain for the Hotdogs of the adult beer hockey league for many years. His passion for sports never wavered. Despite his declining health, he continued to attend Capitals hockey games, Nationals, Orioles and Rockies baseball games and even managed to attend Game 2 of the 2022 Stanley Cup Finals in Colorado in June cheering his favorite team, the Colorado Avalanche, to victory.

Drew is survived by his wife, Julie, adult children James and Jeannine, sisters Liz Wilson of Saugatuck, MI and Annie Vuillemot of South Lyon, MI, his mother Sandra Vuillemot and his stepmother Nancy Vuillemot both of Milford, MI. His father, George Vuillemot preceded him in death.

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy consider donating to Hockey Fights Cancer, the USNA Foundation, or a charity of your choice in Drew’s name. Drew will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery Friday, December 2, 2022

Reception to follow at Army/Navy Country Club, Arlington. Those planning to attend, please RSVP by November 10 to vuillemot.julie@gmail.com for

additional information and Ft. Myer access information.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

DEC 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel
Arlington, VA

Interment

DEC 2 (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Reception

DEC 2 (ET)

Army Navy Country Club
1700 Army Navy Dr
Arlington, VA 22202

Tribute Wall

PS

“ Drew Vuillemot was my OIC at 8th and I after the Gulf War. He was a fine Marine Officer and a fine human being. Smart as hell, and competent. He was great to work for. He was confident without being arrogant (well, maybe now and then). I don't have a history degree from the Naval Academy, but I do have several hundred history books in my personal library, and we enjoyed talking history. Some Marines compete with running and pull ups, we competed with knowledge of history.

He looked after his Marines, including me. He took the occasional muttered "Boat School" or "Canoe U" comments in good nature and always had a counter. The only time he would ever get mad at me is when I stole his candy bars. I'm guessing Julie will remember the haunted house at MCI. Good times.

I was stunned and saddened to hear the news. Condolences to Julie and all of his family. He is gone way too soon, and I know there is a hole in your lives. Remember he would only want you to be happy.

Major Vuillemot, Semper Fidelis, Fair Winds, and Following Seas. I fully expect you are debating fine points of history with the Almighty.

Philip Simoes
MGySgt USMC (Ret)

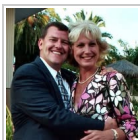
Philip Simoes - October 02, 2022 at 06:30 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Andrew James Vuillemot.*



August 09, 2022 at 03:32 PM



“ *Fellow Marines, Friends, and Family of Drew*

We lost a good one without fanfare or due process. Drew was a great fellow officer, an informative colleague, an incredible friend, a great patriarch of his family, crappy at darts, an expert at USNA tailgaters, and always there for his brothers/sisters in arms whenever the need arose. A special toast for Drew! From the bottom of my heart!

Frank Quigley - July 26, 2022 at 08:31 PM

JY

“ I met Drew while working at VMware. He was a amazing and perpetually positive person who quickly become an expert in dealing with a challenging customers. He loved working with DoD (and other veterans) and his passion infected the entire team. I loved travelling with him on sales calls as he always tried to include a sporting event in every trip. I also really enjoyed attending a few of his epic tailgaters at the Navy Stadium with he and Julie. As a big supporter of the Naval Academy we found a lot of common ground and he quickly become one of my favorite people to work during my time at VMWare. I was very sad to hear of his passing as he was a tremendous person who made a difference in every life he touched. He made everything and every team he worked with better. I am grateful for the time we worked together and Carolyn and I extend our best thoughts and prayers for Drews friends and family as they grieve his passing.

John Younkin - July 21, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ I do not know where to actually begin to adequately express my love for my brother. We both were raised on a farm. I can hear the arguing about which one of us had to clean the stalls or kennels. Of course, we fought as siblings do and I always tried to trick him into being the one in trouble... “naughty word club”...mom Andrew said a bad word. Dumping the house plants on the floor... mom Andrew dumped dirt on the floor! We endured 6 moves in 6 years finally landing in Saugatuck MI. We both were enrolled in Saugatuck High School at the time. So many crazy memories and who knew that was just the beginning. I was proud of Andrew for so many reasons, but probably the #1 reason was his determination and his will to be the best of the best. He knew what he had to do to leave behind farm life. His time at the Naval Academy was surreal. It was a world that I never knew existed. His graduation was something to behold, not to mention the tailgaters. When he was deployed to Desert Storm, I felt like I had a giant hole in my heart. The uncertainty of his safety kept us up at night. I was able to send him a card, note, care package or whatever every day for his time there. I know he appreciated it and he often talked about how much that meant to him. That was long before cell phones or any way of communication other than the nightly news or The Red Cross. One night he called me at the house!!! You can imagine my surprise and pure joy to hear his voice. He told me what he thought I wanted to hear that he was safe and away from the battlefield. I think you all can gather what he really did during the war. A true hero for sure. We celebrated his homecoming with so many yellow ribbons it made people cry! Andrew was the best big brother to Annie, and the best Godfather to Taylor. Another glorious memory was that he was able to be at the hospital when Nick was born, and he got to hold him before I did. A bond that cannot be broken.

A few years later he would meet the love of his life Julie and they married at the Naval Academy Chapel. I wanted to be in the wedding, but I didn't know Julie very well at that time. So of course they had a bowling competition to see if I made the cut! Taylor and I enjoyed every minute of being in that wedding ceremony.

Time passed on. Our kids kept all of us busy with sports and activities but it was in recent years we were able to all be together for a Thanksgiving dinner. He was adamant that we do the Turkey Trot. What a great memory that one is. He looked particularly handsome in his turkey headgear. He was lucky enough to be in Detroit for that Thanksgiving to watch Saugatuck Football in the finals at Ford Field. He loved his football!

Our dad passed away in January of 2019 and Andrew had the strength to get Annie and I through such a sad time. We were all together to celebrate my dad at Wrigley Field. Wrigley Field will always have a fond place in our hearts. On "Ron Santo" day(late 60's) Andrew got to present Ron with a puppy, which of course included free training! Ron became part of our family from that day forward. As kids, we rarely missed an opportunity to go to Wrigley together. In September 2019 he made a special trip home to be present at Taylor's wedding. A day I will cherish forever. His last visit home was a year ago. He had a plan for the time he was here. Tigers game, trip to Saugatuck for the day, and just lots and lots of laughs. I'm sad now knowing it was the last time I would see him. I could probably go on for pages, but the real story is he was my little brother and I loved him with all of my heart. What I wouldn't do for one more opportunity to hear him call me "Frighty" and for me to fling pudding at his head. God Speed Andrew and Thank you for your service. I will love you forever!

Liz

Liz Wilson - July 21, 2022 at 06:02 AM

SJ

“ I dimmed with Drew during Plebe summer and lived directly across the hall plebe year. He was a great friend then and his vast knowledge of history literally got me through 2nd semester world history... he would brief me on various topics off the top of his head complete with names and dates... incredible!!
I regret that i didn't stay connected with him after graduation. He was a wonderful person and I'm sure a great husband, father, and marine.
My deepest condolences and prayers to his family during this difficult time. With Love, Sheldon

Sheldon Jo - July 21, 2022 at 02:57 AM

LK

“ Drew was an amazing friend. Our family has so many memories of hanging out with the Vuillemot's and Drew was always so fun. He was a devoted dad and just an all around great person. He would do anything a friend/neighbor needed, including running over to put out Ed's hockey towel fire in my oven. It wasn't even a question that he would help...he just jumped in to do whatever needed to be done. And then we just laughed and laughed about stupid stuff like that. Ed's "work" outfit. Casa de Fruta. Poker nights. Coaching the Raptors 🏀 and watching the boys at in-line hockey. Hockey road trips to PA and NJ. So many memories. My thoughts are with you Julie, James, and Jeannine. I will never forget him. Laura

Laura Kostrzebski - July 20, 2022 at 11:10 PM

KD

“ Julie, you are in my prayers. I knew Drew through the Marine Corps, when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton with my (ex) husband Steve Lightfoot. We were friends out there and then both ended up on the East coast. He would come to dinner at our house or just to hang out. I loved that he enjoyed being with us, especially since we had 3 girls and didn't get out much! He wanted a family. I remember when he met you and called me to talk about you. He wanted us to meet you - he thought you might be “the one”. Y'all came to dinner at our house at Quantico and I could tell he was smitten with you. And you were the One; I was so happy for you both! Drew was such a kind man and I have such fond memories of our times together. I will be praying for you and I'm so sad for your loss.

Kathy Denning - July 20, 2022 at 08:12 PM

JM

“ I am so sorry to have learned about the news that Drew had passed. I sincerely enjoyed my time working with Drew on all of our mutual engagements for the Department of Defense while at VMware. Drew was an amazing colleague and a great partner in our business. Thank you for all that you did Drew, and my deepest condolences to family, friends, and other colleagues.

Josh Miller - July 20, 2022 at 06:39 PM

JJ

“ So very sorry to hear this. I remember when you two met, and the times at Murphy's and GWs! Drew was always a lot of fun and you two were a fantastic team! My deepest condolences and a big hug!

Jen Imhoff - July 20, 2022 at 05:26 PM

DJ

“ I was so sorry to hear the news. Drew and I were in the same Plebe Year company together at the Naval Academy. In short, with his sense of humor and certain degree of irreverence, he made Plebe Year bearable. He was always a friendly, decent, and upstanding man. Sending prayers of comfort and peace for the days ahead.

Dave Julian - July 20, 2022 at 11:08 AM

TF

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. Sending my deepest condolences to your family. I pray that the good memories you had with each other help you heal in such a tough time. Sending lots of love and hugs❤️

Tori Fraser - July 20, 2022 at 10:09 AM

CB

“ Please accept my deepest condolences. I knew him when he was a high school student, and he was one of the finest students I had the pleasure of having in my classes. I am so sorry his life has been cut short. Cathy Brockington

Cathy Brockington - July 19, 2022 at 10:23 PM

JP

“ I love my niece, Julie, and I came to love Drew just as much as I love her. He was fun and funny, and I shall never forget the happiness and joy that he brought to others. Joann

Joann Patton - July 19, 2022 at 07:26 PM

AV

“ Andrew was always a loving brother who I could lean on. Aside from the typical big brother “torment”, he always offered sound advice “quit screwing around in H.S. so you don’t end up at a shit college”, a good listening ear, and comfort when I was a young kid afraid of the dark offering me the top of the bunk bed to ease my fears. Even though we did not talk daily or even monthly when we did talk I was able to share openly about my life and always love to hear his excitement about Julie, James and Jeannine. Andrew often talked about work and sports teams he followed and I always acted interested even though I had NOT a clue what he was talking about! We all know that Andrew was a smart and determined human who followed the rules, but he loved to drill that into my head at a young age. When Andrew was 14 he volunteered to be one of my little league coaches. I thought it was cool at first thinking I would get preferential treatment until I was benched a few games when I refused to shake the boys hands after a game. I was told that poor sportsmanship was not an option in life! “Be humble when you win and take the loss with pride”. “When no one is around you can celebrate or cry, but keep your cool otherwise”. Things Andrew said to me as a young child through my adulthood always stuck, maybe because he is a man of few words (unless he had many beers in him) or because what he said he said with love and care. Andrew thought of family often. There were often care boxes sent from USNA with t-shirts, sweatshirts and stickers. Visits home to see family or visits to NYC where I attended college for bar hopping and late night pizza. After turning 21 I was invited to spend the Summer with Andrew and Julie in Alexandria. At the time of my visit Andrew was stationed at 8th and I where we attended the Friday parades. This is where I learned that I could NOT out drink Marines but had fun trying! As always Andrew kept a close eye on me but enjoyed giving me another cherishable experience of being close to him and I loved every minute of it! Words cannot express how much I looked up to Andrew, how much I relied on his guidance and how much I loved him. While I am at peace knowing he is not suffering anymore I will miss him more than I express but, I am grateful for all he has given me. I am

thankful for the memories I have that will last me a lifetime! Andrew will be missed but never forgotten.

-Annie

Annie Vuillemot - July 19, 2022 at 04:40 PM