



Duff Maki

August 14, 1948 - July 20, 2020

Duff Maki, 71, passed away on July 20th in his Tallahassee, FL home that he and his beloved wife, Peggy shared, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Duff was born in Springfield, MA to Joan and Orville Maki on August 14, 1948. He attended Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach, FL, and then went to the University of Tennessee-Martin, where he played football and was a member of ROTC.

Post-schooling, Duff served as a Captain in the U.S. Army, where he completed Ranger School. As a Special Forces Infantry Unit Commander in the Vietnam War, he was awarded the Bronze Star (3 Awards), Army Commendation Medal (with Valor Device), Republic of Vietnam Ranger Badge, Vietnam Service Medal with three campaign stars, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After serving his country, Duff worked as an executive for Coca-Cola Enterprises in Atlanta, GA. In 1994, he moved back to Fort Walton Beach and completed his master's in counseling at Troy State University. There, he reconnected with Peggy (Rookstool), and they were married on June 14, 1996, in Pensacola, FL. Duff then worked as a high-school teacher, guidance counselor, and coach at his alma mater, Choctawhatchee. Later moving to Tallahassee in 2002, Duff accepted a job, at the Florida Department of Forestry, where he spent his days walking Bear Creek State Park and teaching school groups.

In addition, Duff was a man of faith and served Faith Presbyterian Church in

various roles of Deacon, Elder, and Grief Counselor. Always called to serve others, the number of lives Duff touched over his years are countless.

Duff is survived by his cherished wife Peggy; daughters Jennifer (Jess Brown), Stephanie (Tim Anderson), and Courtney (Derek Whitis); sister Dianne (Jeff Lange); and grandchildren Claire, Bennett, and Anna Kate Brown, Sydney Anderson, and Carson Whitis; nephew Nathan Lange; and niece Molly Lange.

The Celebration of the Life of Duff Maki will take place at 3PM on Monday, November 23, 2020, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2200 N. Meridian Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Due to COVID, and the restricted number of seats for the Celebration of Life, the program will be live-streamed, and also ready for viewing on the church's website following the program at <https://faithpcusa.org/>. Memorials may be given to the Faith Presbyterian Preschool Scholarship Fund in his name. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Maki family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 North Meridian Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ To Duff's family-

I knew Duff through his work with Bear Creek Educational Center. Every year during the spring, another teacher and I would take 40 second graders on an overnight campout at Lake Talquin. And every year for many years, I would call Duff and he would graciously and enthusiastically agree to come out to camp and run small groups all afternoon to teach the kids all about trees. He shared his love of nature and his knowledge in such a patient and caring way, and the kids all loved his lessons and activities. I'm sure he touched many lives during his time here on earth and I just wanted you to know about these. I am so sorry for your loss and pray for comfort and peace for your family.

Lynn Janasiewicz - August 16, 2020 at 06:32 PM

PM

Lynn, thank you so much for posting this. Duff loved having the school groups out to Bear Creek. He enjoyed sharing his love of the outdoors and nature with those kids. My husband was an extraordinary man. Thank you again for your kind words. God Bless.....

Peggy Maki - August 18, 2020 at 06:41 PM

JR

“ Hi Peggy, you don't know me. I'm so sorry about your loss of Duff. I played little league baseball against Duffy (as we called him back then) at Tachikawa AFB in Japan when our dad's were stationed there in the early 60's. Interestingly, our dad's then were both transferred to Eglin AFB near Ft. Walton Beach. I went to Niceville High School playing basketball and he went to our rival high school Choctaw and excelled in football. I wish we could have made contact. I called his dad a number of years ago to ask about Duff and had a nice conversation with him. It sounds like Duff was a wonderful husband, father, and Christian. I will be praying for you and your family for comfort from above. 🙏 God bless you all!

Jim Rooney - August 02, 2020 at 04:41 PM

PM

Thank you for posting this Jim. How wonderful you have known Duff (Duffy :-) for such a long time. Your words were so much fun and comforting. Thank you again.

Peggy Maki - August 18, 2020 at 06:42 PM

MA

“ Thinking of you all. Keeping you in our hearts and prayers. Hugs and love to all your family.
Love,
Mylisa, Ron, Matthew, Shelia and Frankie


Mylisa Araujo - July 27, 2020 at 02:31 PM

PM

Thank you Mylisa.....

PEGGY MAKI - July 28, 2020 at 12:09 AM

JH

“ To my dear “Mickey,” you are dearly loved. You leave behind “Minnie,” however, she will carry on your memories forever and always. God has blessed you and you have lived a great life. We love  you and you will forever be a Big Green Indian. Ross and Jenny Hamilton.

jenny Hamilton - July 25, 2020 at 06:00 PM

PM

Jenny, this is so sweet. We remained Mickey and Minnie right to the end. I pray he will be waiting at Heaven's gate for me.

PEGGY MAKI - July 28, 2020 at 12:12 AM

RB

“ Duff was my roommate in college. From the moment I met him I knew he would be a close friend. We played football together and were commissioned on the same date. We were proud to be fraternity brothers Phi Sigma Kappa! I will cherish my memories of my time with Duff and to listening to the Judy in the sky album by the Beatles. Words cannot begin to express our heart felt loss . We send our love and pray for God’s strength for you Peggy ,children and grandchildren. He truly was a man among men and disciple that pleased our Father in heaven . Simply put he was a child of God. Well done my brother you will always be with us.

Robby Baird - July 25, 2020 at 12:03 PM

PM

Robby, thank you so much for posting these kind words and taking a moment to honor Duff. I will miss him every day for the rest of my life until I see him again. God Bless.....

Peggy Maki - August 18, 2020 at 06:43 PM

KP

“ I am so sorry for your loss. His passing will leave a hole in many hearts. But he left his mark on thousands of hearts and minds. God bless you. ❤️

Karen Pelham Parker - July 25, 2020 at 08:34 AM

PM

Thank you Karen. I already miss him more than I can say. He is the love of my life. Praying for peace.....

Peggy Maki - July 25, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Duff Maki.



July 24, 2020 at 06:04 PM

HA

“ One of our Best Brothers. DGTBAPS..From Harley Allen..



Harley Allen - July 24, 2020 at 05:00 PM

PM

I love this.....Thank you so much for posting the picture.

PEGGY MAKI - July 24, 2020 at 11:12 PM

PM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



PEGGY MAKI - July 24, 2020 at 03:48 PM

DC

Loved Duff from the moment I met him. Such a happy, upbeat and down to the core good soul. The world has lost a much treasured man. May he rest in peace.

D. CRUZ - July 24, 2020 at 04:37 PM

PM

Thank you Debi. You know how much I love him, and this is the hardest thing I have ever done is face this. I will love him Always and Forever. He loved you too.

PEGGY MAKI - July 24, 2020 at 11:14 PM

JF

“ *Dear Peggy,
So sorry to hear of Duff's passing. I wasn't aware the cancer had gotten to such extreme. I'm so glad my wife and I were able to get together with you and Duff in Destin a few of years ago. In your prayers to him, please give him my thanks for his service to our country - he was always a true leader.
Jim Freeman*

Jim Freeman - July 23, 2020 at 06:44 PM

PM

Thank you Jim. He was an extraordinary man, and I loved him more than I can say. It is going to be a rough time coming; but, he used to teach Grief Groups at our church, and I intend to make him proud. He loved you dearly.

PEGGY MAKI - July 24, 2020 at 03:42 PM