



Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke

September 29, 1938 - November 9, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke, who died peacefully on November 9th, 2025, surrounded by his proud sons.

Denny, known for his sly wit and natural charm, could make a friend of any stranger. He was devoted to his family, his friends, his beloved wife Martha, and his Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Denny was born, along with his identical twin brother, Jimmy, on September 29, 1938, in Gary, Indiana, to Kathleen and Jim Burke. The inseparable "Double Dynamite" attended Campion Jesuit High School and the University of Notre Dame. For two decades, the brothers led the family business, James J. Burke & Sons Moving and Storage.

On December 28, 1963, Denny married his true love, Martha Jensen. For forty-eight joy-filled years, they shared a partnership grounded in deep affection and mutual admiration. Denny often said, "I can't believe how lucky I was to marry Martha," a sentiment his three sisters wholeheartedly echoed. Together, Denny and Martha raised six sons, attended countless school and sporting events, and—on occasion—paid a visit to the school principal's office.

In 1979, the family embarked on a new adventure in South Dakota, where

Denny managed sales and trucking for Marolf's Dakota Farms Cheese in Sturgis. A proud Army veteran and devoted Navy enthusiast, he treasured the opportunity to sail on three "Tiger Cruises" with his son.

Alongside his beloved Martha, Denny enjoyed a retirement filled with old friends, frequent travel, and the joyful reward of thirteen grandchildren—nine girls and four boys.

After the sudden loss of Martha in 2011, Denny found renewed purpose through his faith, his expansive web of friends and family, and his gift of humor that brought laughter and joy to all.

Denny is survived by his sons: D.J. (Leslie); Tom (Rapid City, SD); Bill (Ruthie, Houston, TX); Mike (Angie, River Falls, WI); Ryan (Rapid City, SD); and Kevin (Kim, Rapid City, SD). He is also survived by his sisters, Kay Welsh (Robert, Chesterton, IN); Vee (Jim, Libertyville, IL); and Ellen (Scott, Long Lake, MN); and 13 grandchildren: Dylan, Jack, Connor, Edie, Kalen, Eliza, Samantha, Lily, Emily, Elizabeth, Charlie, Luke and Quinn.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Jimmy, his wife Martha, and granddaughters Edith and Eliza Burke. Denny will be greatly missed by an extensive number of caring and supportive friends and family in Rapid City and beyond.

The Burke family wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the extraordinary specialists, caregivers, and the staff at the Village at Skyline Pines in Rapid City for their kindness, compassion, and comfort. A visitation will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. directly at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 638 N. Calumet, Chesterton, IN. Please visit Denny's online obituary and guestbook at www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUN **20**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (cst)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
638 N. Calumet Ave.
Chesterton, IN 46304

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **20**. 10:00 AM (cst)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
638 N. Calumet Ave.
Chesterton, IN 46304

Tribute Wall

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“ sending love and prayers today to our second family next door for 30 years. Denny was truly special and is greatly missed. What a blessing we were priveledged to have touch and enhance our lives. God Bless!

Charlene Sieler - Yesterday at 10:24 AM

TH

“ The Helminiaks purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke.



The Helminiaks - June 19 at 12:02 PM

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“ The Helminiaks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke.

The Helminiaks - June 19 at 12:02 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke.



June 15 at 06:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke.

June 15 at 06:33 PM



“ The Clancy Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke.



The Clancy Family - June 15 at 04:08 PM



“ The Clancy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dennis "Denny" Joseph Burke.

The Clancy Family - June 15 at 04:08 PM