



Douglas Michael Bennett

July 21, 1964 - August 4, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden passing of Douglas M. Bennett, 61, on August 4, 2025, at his home in Alexandria, VA. He was the beloved son of the late Robertson and Louise (Bitterman) Bennett. Doug leaves behind his cherished wife, Diane, and their two children, Daniel and Rochelle. He is also survived by his brother Bob Bennett and wife, Pat, of Ridgefield, CT; his sister Leslie Bennett and her significant other, Tom, of Murray, UT; and his brother Bruce Bennett and wife, Kathy, of Washington Depot, CT. Doug also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

Doug grew up near the ocean in the coastal Long Island town of Massapequa, NY, where he developed a life long love for the water—swimming, boating, and surfing. His passion for the ocean led him to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, following in the footsteps of his father and two older brothers. Upon graduation, Doug was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserves. He immediately reported for Active Duty serving as Salvage Officer and then Diving Officer aboard the USS Kittiwake. His commitment to service extended beyond active duty, as he continued to serve in the Naval Reserves, rising to the rank of Commander. It was during his active duty service that Doug met his future wife, Diane Cote.

After earning dual master's degrees in economics and business from Boston University, Doug began a successful career in finance. He most recently served as Auditor General for the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the Senior Executive Service. He simultaneously taught accounting part-time as an adjunct professor at NOVA Community College.

Doug was a devoted husband to Diane for over 35 years and an adoring father to their two children. He found joy in the simple moments; taking Ro to the community pool and enjoying long walks with Danny to discuss everything from current events to life's little wonders. Doug found peace and fulfillment in nature, tending to his herb garden, working in the yard, and exploring local parks.

Doug's quick wit and humble spirit touched everyone he met. His genuine kindness, humor, and warmth left a lasting imprint on the hearts of all who knew him. We will forever cherish the memories of his laughter, his stories and jokes, and his unwavering love for his family. Doug will be profoundly missed, but his spirit will remain with us forever.

Relatives and friends will be received at Faith Church, Kingstown, 5725 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM, followed by a reception. Interment will follow at Quantico, National Cemetery, Triangle, VA 22172, 2:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Koinonia Cares (a local food pantry and clothes closet) via [<http://www.koinoniacares.org>] or that you consider planting a tree through the Arbor Day Foundation at [www.arborday.org] in his memory.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 14. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Faith Church
5725 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315

Graveside Service

AUG 14. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172-1636
(703) 221-2183

Tribute Wall

DB

“ We were told about Doug’s passing this past Sunday morning. We’re so profoundly saddened by this news. Doug was brilliant and kind. One of America’s best who served admirably. Committed to his family. A humble, smart and effective leader. Thinking about a trip to his office at the Pentagon. He, his team and Donnie - such a wonderful, full circle Kings Point moment for us.



We are praying for Doug’s family and his many friends.

Daryck (KP88) and Sharon (KP86) Brown

Daryck and Sharon Brown - August 15, 2025 at 05:59 PM

DJ

Reconnected with Doug 2 years ago after a 25 year gap from when we met in the Navy Reserves. Enjoyed times spent diving with Doug in Newport and Narragansett RI and Key West . Still looking for our lost dive flag off Kings Beach . Many fond memories and our prayers are with Doug’s family

Dave Johnson

david johnson - August 22, 2025 at 04:17 AM

CH

“ I was saddened to hear about Mr Bennett. I was under his leadership in the Audit Agency and gained valuable insight through one or more of his closed door sessions. He continued providing me with wonderful words of advice after I retired from Audit. My prayers for comfort are with the family.

Clarence Hayes - August 14, 2025 at 09:34 PM

TS

“ *Tocelia (TC) Skinner lit a candle in memory of Douglas Michael Bennett*



Tocelia (TC) Skinner - August 13, 2025 at 04:44 PM

DI

“ *I am deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Bennett. I had the privilege of working closely with him for a year, and during that time, I came to know him as a compassionate man and an exceptional leader. My thoughts and prayers are with his family as they navigate this difficult loss.*

Since taking the helm of the Air Force Audit Agency (AFAA) in 2017, Mr. Bennett led with vision and purpose. He initiated the transformation that positioned the agency to support the Department of the Air Force in achieving a clean audit opinion by FY2027. He spearheaded a restructuring to align with the White House's force restructuring goals, strengthened our data analytics capabilities, and ensured our work remained agile, relevant, and impactful.

His leadership made AFAA stronger, more future-focused, and better prepared to meet the challenges ahead. His legacy will live on in the agency for decades.

Darrell Allen II - August 13, 2025 at 01:24 PM

MB

“ Oh my gosh! Doggie is gone. What a great hole he leaves. Doug and his two pet ferrets were my roommates in Surface Warfare Officer school back in 1987. We also attended Dive and Salvage School...oh so long ago. Doug was always bright--he always brought the joy. Fair winds & following seas my shipmate brother!

Matthew E. Bamrud - August 12, 2025 at 04:54 PM

TJ

“ My deepest condolences to Mr. Bennett's family for their loss. The first time I meet Mr. Bennett was on his first trip to Eglin right after becoming the Auditor General. I remember how excited he was to see his name on the reserved parking spot and he had to take a picture to send to his brother. That positivity and energy followed him throughout his time with the Air Force Audit Agency. He will be greatly missed by his Air Force Audit Agency family.

Tracey Janssen - August 11, 2025 at 01:11 PM

MB

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Bennett's sudden passing. In every interaction I had with him, he was kind, funny, and genuinely thoughtful. I admired that he was never afraid to be himself, whether that meant offering a lighthearted comment to brighten the day or showing up with his own style instead of the usual dark suits worn by many. His presence brought warmth and authenticity to the Air Force Audit Agency, and he will be greatly missed. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, children, and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.

Michelle Burger - August 11, 2025 at 08:53 AM

CG

“ Although we hadn't seen each other in years, we still kept in touch and he always made me laugh. i will miss his kind heart and quick wit. My deepest condolences to his family

Chris Garcia - August 11, 2025 at 06:05 AM



“ I am saddened to hear of Mr. Bennett's passing. I had the privilege of working under his leadership at the Audit Agency, and I will always remember his kindness and genuine care for people.

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy during this difficult time. My thoughts are with each of you, and I hope you find comfort in knowing the positive impact he had on so many lives.

Sharon Wilt - August 10, 2025 at 05:18 PM

CM

“ My sincere condolences to the Bennett family. Mr. Bennett's leadership will leave a lasting legacy in the Air Force Audit Agency. We will keep the mission and vision going in his honor. My favorite memory of his visit to the Langley office was his light-hearted Superman impression. He made us laugh and put everyone at ease. Rest in peace, Mr. Bennett!

Carol Murray - August 10, 2025 at 02:41 PM

DK

“ I was there when Diane and Doug met and again when they married. They laughed through life together. I'm happy they found each other and had so many wonderful years. The world will be missing a really cool cat! Blessings and prayers to you Diane, the stongest person I know.

Dianna Kinoshian - August 10, 2025 at 02:13 PM

JH

“ I hadn't seen him since school, but the moment I heard about Doug's passing my thoughts went to the times a bunch of us KPers crowded in to his Datsun 210 to go to a mixer at the College of New Rochelle. There was no heat in that car....

Jeff Helfrich - August 10, 2025 at 01:40 PM



“ I just learned this news. So very hard to accept. I have had many conversations with Doug over the years, especially the last 5 yrs. Although Doug had several distinguished professional accomplishments, what always struck me most about him was his unwavering commitment to think about others and not just himself. His take on positions always bolstered dignity for others. I will do my best to try to carry that on, reminding myself of how Doug did it. I will miss his well-informed discussions, but even more I will miss his friendship and his elevation of decency in the way he believed our nation should function. Rest well Doug. You will be missed.

James McLoughlin - August 09, 2025 at 11:05 PM

CC

“ Mr. Bennett was a great leader and a better person. I am grateful for my time working for and with Mr. Bennett. I offer my deepest condolences to the Bennett family.

Carl Chan - August 09, 2025 at 09:56 PM

SM

“ My deepest condolences to the entire family during this difficult time. Mr. Bennett was the kind of leader who always put people first while staying unwaveringly focused on the mission. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones as we honor his remarkable life and legacy.

Scott McLaughlin - August 09, 2025 at 09:21 PM

JA

“ Diane I am so very sorry for your loss. May your memories offer you comfort.

Jackie (Lester) Alves

jackie alves - August 09, 2025 at 07:32 PM

CP

“ Douglas Bennett was the greatest Boss I have ever worked for in my career. "Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate"! Condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.



Constance Powell - August 08, 2025 at 06:10 PM

PO

“ My condolences to the family. Mr. Bennett was an amazing leader and we will miss him tremendously.

Pam Olivarez - August 08, 2025 at 02:15 PM

JR

“ Deepest condolences. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Joseph Ritzel - August 08, 2025 at 01:59 PM

TB

“ My deepest condolences to the family.

Tonya Briscoe - August 08, 2025 at 12:56 PM

JS

“ *Joanne Schoonover lit a candle in memory of Douglas Michael Bennett*



Joanne Schoonover - August 08, 2025 at 11:53 AM



Thoughts and prayers for Doug and his family. 🙏

Joseph McColgan - August 08, 2025 at 05:19 PM

HV

I was heartbroken to hear about Mr. Bennett. He was such a wonderful leader and a truly great person. I remember presenting to him and how kind and motivating he was. My deepest sympathies go out to his family. Please know that we are here to support them in any way they need.

Huong Vy - August 11, 2025 at 07:34 AM