



USAF, Ret. Captain Dennis J. O'Rourke

May 18, 1943 - June 12, 2026

USAF, Ret., Captain Dennis O'Rourke, age 83 of Highland, IL, passed away Friday, June 12, 2026, at home in Highland, IL.

He was born on Tuesday, May 18, 1943, in Keyser, WV, the son of Hugh and Frances (nee Shubert) O'Rourke.

On Saturday, April 5, 2014, he married Karen M. O'Rourke (nee Thompson) in Troy, IL, who survives.

Captain Dennis O'Rourke's unwavering dedication to the United States Air Force spanned an impressive 21 years. He exemplified the core values of the military, starting his career as an enlisted airman and rising through the ranks to Staff Sergeant before earning his commission as a Captain. Throughout his career, he served his country with distinction, and his years of service left an indelible mark on those who had the privilege to serve alongside him.

He had a deep appreciation for the rumble of an engine, carrying a lifelong passion for classic, fast cars, as well as model trains. Dennis had a profound, absolute adoration for his Sheltie dogs, who were always a source of immense comfort, joy, and faithful companionship in his life.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Karen M. O'Rourke of Highland, IL; sons, Brian

O'Rourke of Summerfield, IL, Sean (Katie) O'Rourke of Saint Charles, MO, and Kelly O'Rourke of Highland, IL; step sons, Brian Riddle of Salem, IL, Scott Riddle, Collinsville, IL, and Steve Riddle, Collinsville, IL; grandchildren - Colin O'Rourke, Landon O'Rourke, Kyle (fiancée-Kylie Olliges) O'Rourke, Dustin (Lindsey) Riddle, Chase (Paige) Riddle, Baylee Riddle and Scott (Asha) Riddle, Jr.; sister Emily Rice of Virginia; sister-in-law, Jan Risman of St. Jacob, IL; and brother-in-law - David (Laura) Thompson, Collinsville, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hugh O'Rourke and Frances O'Rourke (nee Shubert); brothers, Martin O'Rourke and Frank O'Rourke and brother-in-law, Gary Risman.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tunnels to Towers or Sheltie Shack (Shell Knob, MO).

Upcoming Events

Memorial Service

JUN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland

1501 9th Street

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