

**Born:** March 23, 1947, Ames, Iowa

**Baptized:** March 16, 1975,

**Confirmed:** March 30, 1975

Faith Lutheran Church,  
Okinawa City, Okinawa, Japan

**Claimed Promise of His Baptism:**

March 17, 2023, Austin, Texas



### **MSGT MERLIN DALE DUNAHOO (Ret)**

Merlin D. Dunahoo, age 75, died peacefully after an almost 11-year battle with cancer. He grew up in Iowa, graduating from Maxwell High School where he was a sprinter on the track team and member of the Future Farmers of America. His education continued after a 22-year career with the United States Air Force, graduating from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos in August 1994 with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences.

His military career assignments included Montgomery, Alabama; Tainan, Taiwan; Charleston, South Carolina; Saigon, Vietnam; Okinawa, Japan; Ramstein, Germany which included multiple TDYs in Norway; and bases in San Antonio and Austin, Texas. He loved to experience the local culture wherever he was sent and passed that love for world travel to his children and grandchildren.

Civilian careers found him in fleet maintenance and management for the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District before refocusing on data management solutions for Tad Technical, Solectron and Flextronics. He also taught community courses in auto mechanics and various computer software programs.

Merlin served the Boy Scouts of America as a Webelos Den Leader and Troop Scoutmaster at various times and locations over a span of 20 years. He enjoyed camping, boating and fishing with the family as well, and was a strong member of the Split Personalities team of the Texas Hospital Association bowling league. He liked going to baseball games, whether it was a

grandson playing, the UT Longhorns, the Round Rock Express, the Houston Astros or Texas Rangers.

He enjoyed many hours with a metal detector in hand, hoping to find a bit of history or a few coins, just for fun. He researched family genealogies and shared his findings with relatives and friends, and uploaded over 2000 data elements to the Find a Grave website to aid others in their exploration of their family tree.

Merlin was a very active member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, serving as Vice President of the Men in Mission group and video recording worship services and conversations by the pastor. His video ministry provided an “in the pew” experience for many years, and was especially important during the COVID pandemic. He was an active member of the Gethsemane Food Pantry team and enjoyed helping those in need of assistance by truly living generously.

It was love at first sight when he met Linda, his wife of 56 years, when they were juniors in rival high schools. They married in June 1966, right after basic training for the USAF and traveled the world together. In addition to Linda, he is survived by their four children: Brian (Trisha) of Moody, Texas; Lana Brock of Pflugerville, Texas; Dana Johnson (Joe Dan) of Horseshoe Bay, Texas; and Jeff (Stacey) also of Pflugerville. Ten grandchildren: Lindsey, Kaitlyn, Mitchell, Marley and Dylan Dunahoo; Zach and Lizzie Brock; Jody Johnson; Joshua and Zachary Parrish and his new great grandson Elijah Jay Parrish. He is also survived by a brother Jerald Dunahoo (Gay) of Ames, Iowa, many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Virginia Walker Dunahoo and son-in-law Richard Brock, Jr.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation in support of veterans and their caregivers, or to a charity of your choice.

**BLESSED BE THE MEMORY OF MERLIN DUNAHOO**



**In Loving Memory and Honor of**

***MSGT MERLIN DALE DUNAHOO (Ret)***

**A Worship of Praise and Thanksgiving**

**Saturday, April 8, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**

**200 W Anderson Lane**

**Austin, TX 78752**

**A Worship of Praise and Thanksgiving for the life  
of  
Merlin Dale Dunahoo  
Holy Saturday, April 8, 2023**

Gethsemane Memorial Pipe Organ Prelude  
Silent Prayer, Meditation, Thanksgiving for Baptism

Hymn "You Are Mine" ELW 581

Greeting and Prayer, Statement of Purpose

First Reading Psalm 103: 1-5  
*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,  
Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from the pit,  
Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Hymn "On Eagle's Wings" ELW 787

Psalm (Pastor & Congregation) Psalm 23  
*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*  
  
*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil; for Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.*  
  
*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Special Music "I Can Only Imagine" Mercy Me

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7, 13

*Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful.  
It is not arrogant or rude.  
Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful;  
It does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,  
endures all things.*

*So faith, hope, love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.*

Hymn "Beautiful Savior" ELW 838

Gospel John 14: 1-6  
*"Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me."*

Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose*

*again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Reflections/Homily

Prayers of the People of God

*P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

Nunc Dimittis (Pastor & Congregation) (Congregation stands)  
*Lord, now let your servant depart in peace: according to your word;  
For our eyes have seen your salvation: which you have prepared before the face of all people;  
A light to lighten the Gentiles: and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

Hymn "Healer of Our Every Ill" ELW 612

Benediction

Gethsemane Memorial Pipe Organ Postlude

**PASTORS**

Rev. Karl A. Gronberg Rev. Dr. Susan M. Schnelle

**MUSICIANS**

Pipe Organ & Piano: Margaret Manz Piano: Patience Jones  
Bells: JoAnn Gerbig Vocal Solo: Michael Harrison

**ACOLYTE**

Dylan Dunahoo

**PALLBEARERS**

Zach Brock Mitchell Dunahoo Dylan Dunahoo  
Joshua Parrish Zachary Parrish David Dorado Chase Kerlek