



Patrick Eli Fuller

February 24, 1954 - January 30, 2025

Ridgeway - Patrick Eli Fuller, age 70, of Ridgeway, our beloved husband and father passed away on Thursday, January 30, 2025 after a courageous battle with MDS. Our hearts are broken and left with a hole that will never be filled. Patrick was born on February 24, 1954 to Sam and Irene Fuller in Rossford, Ohio. He was the eldest of seven children. Pat chose to attend St. Francis de Sales High School, for which he paid his own tuition and graduated in 1972. At the age of 18, Pat enlisted in the US Marine Corps from 1973 to 1986. As an infantry soldier, he served as team leader, squad leader, infantry instructor, and platoon sergeant.

In 1978, Pat met his wife, Cheryl, while in Toledo finishing his bachelor's degree in history as a requirement for officer candidacy. Pat has had a lifelong love of history, particularly military history and had knowledge of battle details beyond belief. He later went on to complete his MBA graduate degree.

In August of 1981 Cheryl and Pat married and were subsequently stationed at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, where their son Samuel John was born in 1982. Pat had unbridled devotion to the military and his country and performed every deployment with reverence and skill. As a marine officer Pat held the positions of Platoon Commander, Company Commander, and Assistant Operations Officer in 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division; and later a Course Team Director of at the Amphibius

Reconnaissance School, Naval Amphibious Base.

In 1986, Pat transferred to the Army and served as Battalion S4 and Company Commander, Parachute Infantry Regime, 82nd Airborne Division. Then he served as Company Commander then later Commandant of the Advanced Airborne School. In 1991 in Desert Storm, Pat served as Company Commander of the Long-Range Surveillance Company, XVIII Airborne Corps. He retired as Battalion Executive Officer, 6th Infantry Division.

His military educations include: Command and General Staff College, Combined Service Support School, Scout Sniper School, Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Landing Force Fire Support Coordinator Course, Naval Gunfire Spotter Course, Submarine Escape Trunk Operations Course, Special Forces Underwater Operations Course, Pathfinder Course, Amphibious Reconnaissance Course, Survival Escape Resistance Evasion Course, USMC Infantry Officer Course, Airborne Course, USMC Advanced Leadership Course, Jungle Survival School, Mountain Warfare Training, and Infantry Training Course.

Selected as Lt. Colonel, Pat decided to retire from the military in 1997. Over his 25-year career in the military, he has commanded hundreds of troops, always winning the highest respect and devotion from the men and women he commanded. Many of his troops kept in touch with him over the years. His awards include: Meritorious Service Medal (Two Awards), Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Expedition Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (Two Awards), Navy Unit Commendation, Army Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbons (Two Awards), Southwest Asia Service Medal (Three Awards) Kuwait Liberation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, Combat Diver Badge, Marine Corps Expert Rifle Badge (12 Years), Marine Corps

Expert Pistol Badge (5 years), Bronze Rifle Medal (Competitive Shooting), Israeli Parachute Badge, Australian Parachute Badge, German Parachute Badge, Holland M. Smith Award, NRA Master High Power Rifle.

After Pat's retirement from the military, Pat and Cheryl relocated to Platteville, Wisconsin. Pat was elected as Chief Clerk of the Wisconsin Assembly and served a total of 10 legislative sessions under both Republican and Democratic speakers while Cheryl became a tenured professor at the University of Wisconsin. Pat was well respected by many Wisconsin elected officials over the years and was responsible for the procedures and smooth running of the assembly including introduction of and voting on bills of importance to the people of Wisconsin. He was sought out by many employees of the state of Wisconsin for assistance with state government procedures and issues.

Pat and Cheryl were active and respected in the Ridgeway Community and belonged to St. Joseph Parish which they strongly supported and loved.

Pat leaves behind his beloved Cheryl, who he would not and could not live life without, his son Samuel John Fuller, also an Army veteran who retired after 21 years of dedicated service, and grandson Nikoli Fuller.

Survivors include his brothers, Mark, Mathew (Candace), Eric, and William; his sisters, Jan (Chris) Elwing, Marlene (Billy) Evans, and Caroline (Tim) Fritz.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH in Dodgeville. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until time of Mass on Wednesday at the church. Inurnment will be held in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Dodgeville with Military Graveside Rites Accorded by Darlington American Legion.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Joseph School Trust Fund,
305 E. Walnut Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Cemetery

Compassion Way
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
405 S. Dacotah Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
405 S. Dacotah Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Military Graveside Rites

FEB 12. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph's Cemetery
Compassion Way
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Pat was my first cousin and he grew up in Toledo and I near Cincinnati. We would see each other when we were younger and my family traveled to Toledo to see our northern relatives.

When I was younger and searching for a purpose in life Pat was already on a mission, he had joined the Marine Corps and was pursuing his life dream, to serve and protect the United States while leading men and more importantly to be the absolute best Marine.

I eventually joined the Army, a little older and a little wiser, after conferring with Pat. Even though we were not in constant contact I felt that I needed to succeed beyond the standard, to meet the Fuller expectation of excellence.

Pat and I reconnected while I was on a training mission to Wisconsin.

I called him at least once a month over the last 12 years and texted when I needed advice.

My only regret is that I did not have the opportunity to spend more time with Pat before he left us.

I know he is with Jesus, waiting for all of us to join him one day. I am sure that God has assigned Pat as the Physical Fitness OIC and I cannot wait to get in his PT formation and serve the Lord.

Michael Fuller

Michael John Fuller - May 02, 2025 at 06:37 PM

LW

“ I served with Pat in Lebanon in 1983 when we were both 1st Lieutenants. He was an honorable and faithful Marine Officer. RIP my friend

LtCol Harvey Williams - February 28, 2025 at 04:56 PM


Charles
Perlik

“ *Semper Fi Sir. Your dedication and exemplary performance and awards speak for themselves. A true Marines , Marine. Hand Salute Sir.*

Charles Perlik - February 26, 2025 at 03:41 PM

MH

“ *Mike and Chris Heban purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.*



Mike and Chris Heban - February 11, 2025 at 07:46 AM

MH

“ *Mike and Chris Heban planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patrick Eli Fuller.*

Mike and Chris Heban - February 11, 2025 at 07:46 AM

T1

“ *The Men of XVIII Airborne Corps Long Range Surveillance Company 1991-1994 purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.*



The Men of XVIII Airborne Corps Long Range Surveillance Company 1991-1994 - February 10, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ *For 37 years Pat Fuller was my best friend, mentor, and greatest source of inspiration. I can hardly believe my good fortune to have served with him in the 82nd Airborne, serve in Operation Desert Storm together, assume two Infantry commands from him (those were impossibly big boots to fill), and enjoy so much of life with him. Pat was the standard to measure all leaders, and all friends by. The Airborne general officers admired and respected him so much that they placed him in command of four different companies throughout his Captain years - the only Army Captain to have ever done so. I have an extremely difficult time accepting that this hero has been taken from us so soon. I can only ask the good Lord that I can go shooting with Pat again in His Kingdom. I love you my Brother forever.*

- Stan Stewart

Arminius Teutoberg - February 08, 2025 at 05:53 PM

SJ

“ Chief Fuller, was an exceptionally kind, considerate and extremely professional. I often went to him for assistance when I served in the State Assembly. After I won election to the State Senate I shared with him that I was really gonna miss the Assembly, not necessarily the people but my parking space. I really, really loved my parking space. When I got to the Senate, the Senate Clerk informed me that I didn't have to give up my parking, because Chief Fuller traded spots with the Senate so I could keep it. That was in 2016, and I still park in that same spot today.

Senator LaTonya Johnson - February 08, 2025 at 10:34 AM

TJ

“ We trust your good memories will help carry you over this difficult time. Tom and Pat Jonas, New Richmond, WI

Tom and Pat Jonas - February 08, 2025 at 08:30 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



February 07, 2025 at 04:52 PM

MS

“ I served in the legislature from 2005 to 2011. Pat Fuller was a very special man.

One of my first duties after being elected Speaker, was to let Pat Fuller know that he would continue to be the chief clerk. He was a true professional, treating every individual with dignity and respect. It didn't matter if you were a Democrat or Republican, He would always go out of his way to make my job easier and run smoother.

I considered Pat a friend. I can't tell you how many times I would tell him to call me, Mike. He just couldn't do it, he just would respond "yes, sir".

My condolences to his entire family and all that knew and loved him. Godspeed Pat.

Michael Sheridan

Michael Sheridan - February 06, 2025 at 07:45 PM

ME

“ Marlene E. purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



Marlene E. - February 06, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



February 06, 2025 at 05:37 AM

CS

“ Charles A Tubbs Sr. lit a candle in memory of Patrick Eli Fuller



Charles A Tubbs Sr. - February 05, 2025 at 07:40 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



February 05, 2025 at 12:05 PM

FC

“ I served in the Assembly when Pat Fuller was the clerk. He was a consummate professional and treated everyone with fairness and respect. He will be missed. Fred Clark

Fred Clark - February 04, 2025 at 09:03 PM

FW

“ I had the honor to work with Patrick during my time at WisconsinEye covering the State Legislature. Patrick's service to our nation and the state of Wisconsin are a model for all of us in how full of meaning to others should be lived. He will be missed.

Fred Woskoff - February 04, 2025 at 07:46 PM

PB

“ *I served as the Minority Leader with Patrick as the well respected Chief Clerk. He always sought to be fair and responsive to all member needs. He was a true professional that I appreciated throughout his very accomplished service to the legislature and the people of Wisconsin. His family is in my prayers with this most difficult loss. Peter Barca*

Peter Barca - February 04, 2025 at 04:05 PM

ML

“ I have had the pleasure and honor of serving in Pat’s command, not once, but twice, to include DESERT SHIELD/STORM. In my almost 40 years of service in the Army (as a Soldier for 30 and civilian for 10), I can say without hesitation that Pat Fuller was the finest combat leader I ever had the privilege to serve with. I spoke of Pat in my 2024 Veteran’s Day speech. Pat was the standard bearer I would (and still do) measure every leader, to include myself, against. Nobody, including me, ever came close to filling his shoes. I wanted to be like Pat Fuller, but God graced us with only one, that was enough. He literally changed the world for so many people. His leadership brought out the very best in men. He challenged us, toughened us and made us all better. I (and many others) still use what he taught us. I attribute much of my professional success to his leadership and mentorship. He didn’t have to try at it, it came so natural to him. He was such a personality that a little “Pat Fuller” rubbed off on you when you were around him, and that saved lives on the battlefield for years after his retirement. We just never wanted to disappoint him or let him down. Pat loved his Soldiers and never stopped leading. I sought his council via e-mail over the years and he always delivered. Men like Pat Fuller never fade from ones memory, he may be physically gone, but his legacy is embodied in leaders and Soldiers across the nation. I and so many others are fortunate to have know him. I will miss him deeply. To the family, my deepest regrets, and thank you for sharing him with us, the world is a better place due to his selfless service and leadership.

Mark S. Leslie - February 04, 2025 at 03:15 PM

SM

“ I had the privilege to serve with Lt. Fuller at 2d Recon Bn. Truly a leader of men. He instilled in me the strength to never give up, something I have carried with me my entire life. You will be greatly missed. Semper Fi.

Steven Miller - February 04, 2025 at 03:07 PM

SM

“ Steven M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patrick Eli Fuller.

Steven M. - February 04, 2025 at 03:02 PM

MC

“ Mark Cheshire: I served with Pat at 2nd Recon Bn USMC & he was the catalyst for me switching to the Army when I re-enlisted. As an interesting, "Six Degrees Of Separation" side note, Pat also later served with Robbie Nash (One of my 82nd Airborne Recon brothers). Pat was highly admired, the toughest of the tough & a true, "Brother In Arms". He is surely guarding the gates of heaven now & making St. Peter laugh.

Mark Cheshire - February 04, 2025 at 02:26 PM

JS

“ I served in the State Assembly while he was serving as Chief Clerk. He supported the Assembly in a direct, no nonsense way, was a decorated soldier, and while serious and focused, Patrick could erupt with his laughter that I can still hear. Peace to his Family, and may you be comforted by the many memories and moments together. Jennifer Shilling

Jennifer Shilling - February 04, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



February 04, 2025 at 11:15 AM

GH

“ Pat Fuller was my Boss, a mentor and a friend. He was a patriot and role model. I had the pleasure and honor of serving with him as his Ops Sgt in the 82nd LRSD and deployment to Desert Storm. As a leader he was unmatched. Goodbye RANGER Fuller I'll see you across the Bridge. RLTW! George W. Hatcher

George Hatcher - February 04, 2025 at 09:37 AM



Hatch, Stan Stewart here. I hope you and family are well and happy. Please send me a coms check at 770-490-5899

Arminius Teutoberg - February 08, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



February 04, 2025 at 09:16 AM

CH

“ Christine H. purchased the Healing Thoughts Gift Basket for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



Christine H. - February 04, 2025 at 08:48 AM

JG

“ Patrick Fuller was one of the most admirable, honest men I have ever known. It was a privilege to nominate and elect him as State Assembly Chief Clerk in 2003. It was an even greater privilege to have him as a friend and confidant. He loved America and served our nation with tremendous honor. It's difficult to describe the full impact he had on countless soldiers and our military readiness. I was so fortunate to have so many opportunities to talk with him about moments and events while he served our nation. We all loved his tough guy approach but he was a gentle giant that was so kind to so many. In addition, I admired how much he loved his family. We live in a free nation because of Patriots like Patrick. May God welcome him home and share his Divine Mercy over him.
Sincerely,
John Gard
Former Wisconsin Assembly Speaker

John Gard - February 03, 2025 at 11:11 PM

SC

“ Scott and Joanna Carter purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.



Scott and Joanna Carter - February 03, 2025 at 09:38 PM

RG

“ What a wonderful man, true patriot and servant leader. I had only 4+ years to know him but a lifetime to remember his selfless service to us all. RIP American Hero.
Rep. Curt Gielow
R-23. retired

Rep. Curt Gielow - February 03, 2025 at 06:44 PM

CF

“ *Caylor Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Patrick Eli Fuller.*



Caylor Family - February 03, 2025 at 03:37 PM

CF

“ *Caylor Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Patrick Eli Fuller.*

Caylor Family - February 03, 2025 at 03:37 PM