



Douglas Malcolm Black

May 28, 1946 - December 14, 2018

Douglas M. Black, USMC, Retired, age 72, of Salisbury, passed peacefully at home with his family surrounding him, Friday, December 14, 2018.

Born on May 28, 1946 in Boise, Idaho, he was the son of the late Melville F. Black and Helen B. Beckerson Black.

A native of Boise, Idaho, Doug spent his formative years in Indiana and Illinois, attending undergraduate school at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. After college, he volunteered for service in Viet Nam with the United States Marine Corps. His Marine Corps association lasted for 30 years, and he attained the rank of Colonel. The majority of those years were spent with front-line units, based out of North Carolina, California, and Japan. His combat ready deployments took him to 28 countries from Norway to Korea. Doug received his Master's Degree in International Relations while assigned to the Headquarters U.S. European Command in West Germany in 1984.

The final years of his military career were spent in Washington, D.C. where he served as Director for Intelligence and Communications for the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and later as Director for a similar posting on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff. Following his service career, he was associated with Boeing and Sprint, managing Internet operations for U.S Government organizations and AOL.

After retiring from business in 2001, he and his wife relocated to Salisbury, NC where he was associated with Historic Salisbury Foundation, Inc. in a volunteer capacity to support the restoration of historic homes and neighborhood revitalization. His numerous contributions included restoration and maintenance of the HSF Depot, Grimes Mill, the Blackmer House, the Old Town Well, the Hall House, and many other historic structures. Doug received the Clement Cup, the Foundation's highest award, in 2012. He also received the Volunteer of the Year award twice, and in 2016 the award was renamed the Doug Black Volunteer of the Year Award in his honor.

He served as a docent at the Hall House, as Vice President and President of the Foundation, and is a Trustee Emeritus. Doug was also involved in creating the Rowan County History Class, a Neighborhood Watch Program for Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association, and assisted with many community programs, such as Block Works. He was a professional volunteer.

Those left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 50 years, Leslie A. Black; five sons, Christian Black (Nancy) of Elk Grove, CA, Richard Black (Naomi) of Salem, WI, Daniel Black (Blair) of Charlotte, NC, Michael Black (Jennifer) of Concord, NC and Jonathan Black (Jennifer) of Jamestown, NC.

He further leaves behind six grandsons; three granddaughters; one great-granddaughter; one brother, Rodney Black (Diane) of Indianapolis, IN; lots of nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews.

A service to celebrate Doug's life will be held Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Historic Salisbury Foundation Depot at 2:00 PM.

The family will receive friends prior to the service from 12:30 PM - 1:45PM.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to Historic Salisbury Foundation, Rowan County Museum, or Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary.

Summersett Funeral Home is honored to serve the Black family. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Historic Salisbury Foundation Depot
Salisbury, NC

Memorial Service

JAN 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Historic Salisbury Foundation Depot
Salisbury, NC

Tribute Wall

DC

“ I was under Col. Blacks command twice in my 20 yr Marine Corp career. One in the 22 area of Camp Pendleton, he was my Company commander. He was more than fair with me on numerous occasions. The second time I came in contact with him as my Battalion commander many years later. I at that time was in charge of the barracks, as soon as he met me there he immediately moved me back to the platoon as the Comm Chief stating my services were wasted there and the platoon was my destiny. He was right. He was such a great person and I never will forget him. He often came the topic of conversation with my son and grandkids. It's too bad that the good one are taken to soon from us, I met his kids when they were little and I say God bless to all of you.

Sincerely
David T. Corey
Gysgt/USMC Ret.

david corey - July 24, 2019 at 04:02 PM

MH

“ Role Model Marine - proficient operational communicator, savvy staff officer, exceptional leader. My sincerest condolences to Doug's family. RIP, Marine. Col Mark K Hayden, USMC (ret).

Mark Hayden - December 26, 2018 at 04:12 PM

JK

“ Jamil Khan lit a candle in memory of Douglas Malcolm Black



Jamil Khan - December 24, 2018 at 09:34 PM

MR

“ Colonel Black was a tremendous compassionate USMC leader with a sense of humor! Back in 1995, Colonel Black was the CNO rep for the DMS (Defense Messaging System better known as the Dismal Message System). The Navy Reps, HQMC Reps, MCSC Reps and contractors were getting ready to go over seas to England and Italy on a DMS roadshow. The meeting started at about 1300 in Crystal City, VA and we were going over everyone's brief (not up to his standards) and trip details. As the meeting wore on 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300 the reps were leaving at different times to go home. Finally at around midnight, he ended the meeting because the only reps left were USMC Officers and one Navy Officer (Annapolis grad). I remember him saying to me, I wanted to see how committed these people were to this trip and mission. With that smile of his and positive attitude, he stated everything will get better. Of course it did because of him, the trip was a success! I thoroughly enjoyed working with Colonel Black my entire time at HQMC! My deepest condolences to his bride, sons and the rest of the family.

Major Gary R. Ibanez USMC Retired - December 24, 2018 at 06:11 PM

C(

“ Just advised of Colonel Black's passing. My deepest sympathy & sincere condolences to his friends and family. Our association started at Headquarters, Marine Corps in '87 and continued after we had both retired. He was a mentor and friend whose example, counsel, and camaraderie I valued and whose memory I will cherish. RIP, Sir - Semper Fi!

Capt Timothy Moriarty, Jr., USMC (Ret.) - December 23, 2018 at 11:25 AM

NH

“ *Fair Winds and Following Seas, Colonel. It was a pleasure serving with you.*

Semperfi Col Nick Hoffer, USMC Retired

Nick Hoffer - December 23, 2018 at 11:18 AM

CO

“ *I always think of Doug when I come to work at the Museum. I liked Doug the first time I met him and every time I saw him, I liked him more. He will really be missed!*

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!

Connie Carter

connie - December 22, 2018 at 12:58 PM

TC

“ The first time I met Doug he was going into the Family House on a Friday morning to eat breakfast with the guys. I had heard about the Friday breakfast time from my husband who had met a Marine in the checkout line at Lowe's. My husband was wearing his Army hat and the Marine was wearing a Marine ball cap. They struck up a conversation while waiting and the man told my husband about the Friday morning breakfast that a bunch of Marines get together and he came home and told me about it. The next Friday I had off I just went up there to meet these Devil Dogs and Doug was walking up the steps when he saw me walking that way wearing a Marine cap. He invited me to join them. I will always remember the way he made me feel walking up there and not knowing a single soul. He introduce me to everyone and from that day forward I had many new brothers. My heart and prayers are with you all in this time of loss. Semper Fi my friend.

Terri Conner
USMC

Terri Conner - December 19, 2018 at 06:38 PM

DW

I had the pleasure of serving as Doug's executive officer when he commanded 9th Comm Bn. He and Leslie were a complete class act and both my wife, Carla, and myself thoroughly enjoyed knowing them. My sincere condolences to his entire family!
Doug Wilson, LtCol, USMC (Ret)

Douglas Wilson - December 25, 2018 at 09:18 PM

TH

I never had the pleasure of actually working for or meeting Col. Black, but his reputation as a strong leader was widely known throughout the Corps. I remember to this day his bit of wisdom "you have to earn your antenna". My sincere condolences to the Black family and may you find comfort in knowing the positive impact Col. Black had on the lives of many Marines.

*Semper Fi,
Tim Hoonan, LtCol, USMC (ret)*

Tim Hoonan - December 26, 2018 at 11:48 AM

GF

“ I did not Dough all that long. During that time I learned that we had been in many of the same places, some better than others. Rest in Piece my friend, see you later.

*Semper Fi
Gary S. Foster
Sgt. USMC '67-'71*

gary foster - December 19, 2018 at 08:59 AM

KC

“ Was shocked when I learned at Bonnie's service of Doug's deteriorating state. He always was so strong and vibrant. I am grateful for the opportunity to have known Doug and give thanks for a life lived fully and making such wonderful contributions to the Salisbury community. My prayers surround your family during this time of loss. Ken Clapp.

Ken Clapp - December 19, 2018 at 08:34 AM



“ *What can you say about Doug? He brought light to every situation. He shared wisdom born of the struggles we all face. He was a leader and a friend. I met him when I was losing my vision many years ago and he helped me deal with that. Gave me many a ride when I needed it. I'll miss him as I miss my dad, another Marine that was there when the weather turned foul. Thanks Doug!!*

Don Hesprich - December 17, 2018 at 03:22 PM

TP

“ *What sad news. Doug was a strong presence in Salisbury as a person and in our community. He will be deeply missed.*
The Pitner Family

theresa pitner - December 17, 2018 at 01:50 PM