

2012-07-28 DUNCAN B. MURPHY Jr. Obituary



DUNCAN B. MURPHY, JR. (Age 92)

Died July 28, 2012 at the VA Hospital at Palo Alto, California. He was 92, a graduate of Williams College and a lifelong pacifist. As a volunteer American Field Service ambulance driver during World War II, he was assigned first to British units in the North African campaign, later the Allied forces in Italy and France. In April 1945, his unit liberated Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany. The horrors he witnessed there confirmed his commitment to the prevention of all war. In 1946, he received the British Empire Medal for "complete disregard for danger" in the evacuation of casualties to field hospitals.

After a long sojourn with the Shiloh Christian community in New York state, Duncan supported himself as an itinerant tree trimmer so as to serve where he could in the cause of peace and Native American rights. An early opponent of President Reagan's Central American policies, he helped found Witness for Peace in 1983 and traveled frequently to the region on missions of assistance. In 1986, he joined three decorated Viet Nam veterans in a 47-day fast for peace on the Capitol steps; and in 1987 he fasted 40 days with veterans at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, sitting on train tracks to protest arms shipments to El Salvador. When fellow-protester S. Brian Willson was run over and lost his legs there, Duncan provided first aid to save his life. Semi-retired in Santa Cruz, California for a decade, Duncan remained active in the Veterans' Peace Movement. He is sorely missed by friends across the country, by his brother Ted and family, and the family of his late sister, Marguerite Mongeau. He leaves eight nieces, two nephews and numerous great nieces and nephews. Plans for a memorial observance are not yet finalized. Donations in his memory may be made to Hospice of Santa Cruz County, 940 Disc Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066 or to Veterans for Peace, Box 40430, San Francisco, CA 94140.

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<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?pid=159006091#fbLoggedOut>

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September 02, 2012

I knew Duncan as a friend, fellow Peace activist and member of the Nuremberg Actions 24/7 Peace vigil at the Concord Naval Weapons station after the Sept 1, 1987 Train attack. I was honored to play duncan in the reenactment of that assault. Visit NurembergActions.org for photos, etc. We miss you Duncan! Presente!

~

Michael E. Kerr,
Bay Point, California
August 24, 2012

I only met Duncan once, a few months ago. But he granted me to film an interview with him for a longer documentary which I am producing called, Paying the Price for Peace. I will gladly share dvd copies of this interview with his family if you provide me addresses. To me, he was a true Warrior for Peace.

~

Bo Boudart,
Menlo Park, California

[Contact Me](#)

August 19, 2012

May your soul be free and your heart find peace. You were a true spiritual warrior and I am honored to have had the opportunity to be of service to you and call you my friend. You are a true being of love and light- Thank you for everything you taught me and for clearing the way for the next generation of Peaceful Warriors! Love you Dunc-

~

Heather Nagel,
Santa Cruz, California

[Contact Me](#)

August 15, 2012

Peace and joy to you, Duncan. You brought so, so much soul and compassion to the peace movement, and to all of us who were fortunate to know you.

August 10, 2012

When I first met you in Peace Park in 1983, Duncan, you bonded with me for a lifetime. You were living in a library truck, and your life was dedicated to peace and stopping war. You galvanized me then. Your example and commitment to stopping war has lighted my life. Thanks. O-Meta-Kwyacin!

Pierre

~

Pierre Blais,
Mexico

August 09, 2012

Let's give thanks to the Creator for Dunc Murphy, our Uncle. He made the world a better place. He embraced Nature, not as a refuge, but as a system which embraces all Lives. Rejoice in his memory and grieve at his losses.

~

Michael Bolduc,
Tariffville, Connecticut

August 08, 2012

Dunc, thanks for always taking the high ground, and guiding me on the journey of peace.

~

Daniel Young,
Santa Cruz, California

August 08, 2012

A honor to know you, Dunc!

~

Mel Kinder,
Santa Cruz, California

[Contact Me](#)

August 07, 2012

Thank you Duncan Murphy. for all you have done for good and Peace.

A wonderful way to live a life. Rest in Peace

~

keith Mather,
daly city, California

August 07, 2012

Celebrating a life well lived. We will cherish the memories forever for this honorable person.

~

Nancy Fuller,

Silver Spring, Maryland

August 07, 2012

Uncle Dunc will always be an inspiration to me and I am grateful to have known and be loved by such an extraordinary person.