

Colonel John Dennis “Denny” Scott

USAFA Class of 1963

Mass of Christian Burial — Program & Obituary

United States Air Force Academy Cemetery — July 15, 2026

Contents:

Mass program cover

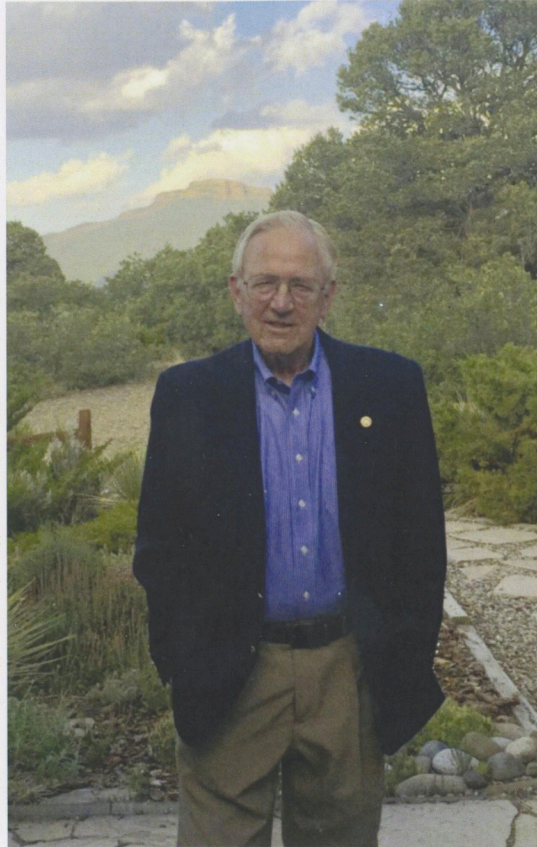
Order of Service

Cadet remembrance and photos

Full obituary

These pages are scanned copies of the printed handout distributed at Denny's Mass of Christian Burial and graveside service at the USAF Academy Cemetery. Preserved here from the summary and photo album compiled by classmate and class photographer Jimmie Butler.

In Celebration of the Life of
Colonel John Dennis “Denny” Scott, US Air Force (Ret.)



June 17, 1941 - December 10, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial

July 15, 2026

Order of Service

Prelude

Instrumental

Introductory Rites

Opening Song

Sing with All the Saints in Glory Song 604

Greeting and Opening Prayer

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Wisdom 3:1-9

Susan Scott

Responsorial

Psalms 23

Kate Johnson

The Lord is My Shepherd

Second Reading

1 John 3: 14-16

Susan Scott

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5: 1-12

Homily

Fr. Hank Hilton

Prayer of the Faithful

R//: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

On Eagle's Wings

Song 441

Gift Bearers

Fiona Scott Farley & Aidan Scott Farley

Communion Song

I Am the Bread of Life

Song 355

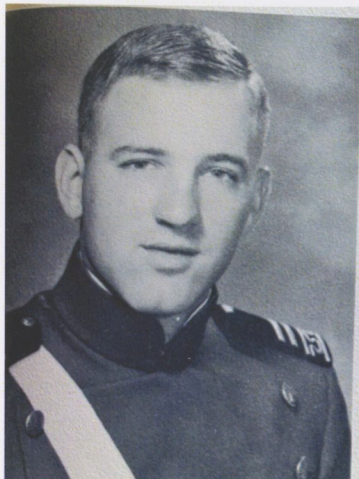
The Concluding Rite

Invitation to Prayer

Recessional

Lord, Guard and Guide (Air Force Hymn)

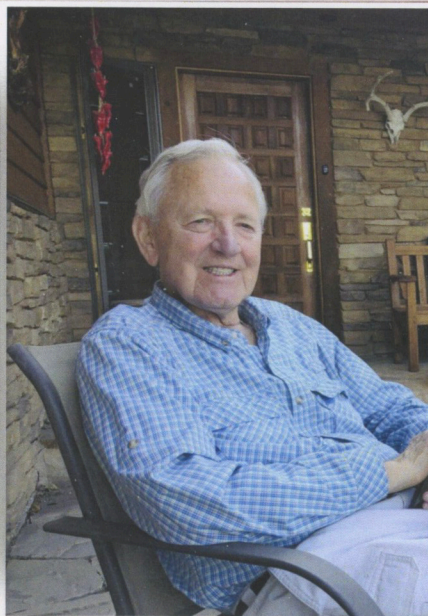
(Located in the back cover of the hymnal.)



JOHN DENNIS SCOTT

"Denny"

Den has always been the patron saint of Mirth and Sunshine in the Sixth Squadron. Coming to us from the "Land of Infinite Variety" (South Dakota), he has reflected his home-grown training through his many talents. Whether he's hiding his roommate's piano from the A.O.C., painting an abstract portrait at 3 a.m., or peddling "extra special" stationery at a thirty per cent profit, Denny always seems to be having a good time. This former fat man also has his serious side, for he has been named to both the Commandant's and Dean's Lists, and is the Squadron Honor Rep—the latter being an indication of the respect which his classmates have for him. As a happy good-guy with a lot on the ball, Denny's future on the aerospace force is exceptionally bright.



President: Father Hank Hilton

Altar Server: Tim McLaughlin

Pianist/Soloist: Kate Johnson, Catholic Music Director for the US Air Force Academy



See full obituary on Legacy, Facebook, in the Chronicle News, and Argus Leader.

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025, Colonel John Dennis "Denny" Scott, US Air Force (Ret.), a joyful and loving man, passed away peacefully at his Santa Fe Trail Ranch home, watching the sunset, with his wife Nancy, daughter Susan, and granddaughter Fiona by his side.

Born on June 17, 1941 in St. Paul, Minnesota, Denny was the second of four children born to Eleanor Ann Elliott and James Robert "Bob" Scott. He grew up in Grand Island, Nebraska and at nine, contracted bulbar polio, surviving from the use of a hastily loaned iron lung from Kearney and quick thinking by an outstanding nurse. He'd recovered by ten and completed his Eagle Scout by fourteen.

Moving to Sioux Falls in high school, Denny attended Washington High School and was known for his affable personality which helped him catch the eye of Nancy Knepper, his future wife, in Latin class. He was elected Governor of the American Legion Boys State of South Dakota in 1958 and next attended the US Air Force Academy, graduating on June 5, 1963, with President John F. Kennedy serving as the keynote speaker. Just hours later, he married Nancy Knepper at St. Paul Catholic Church in Colorado Springs, starting a 62-year loving partnership.

Denny's 32-year Air Force career included 20 years as a pilot logging over 5,000 flying hours and attaining the rating of Command Pilot. Later he held senior command positions in resource management and operations with tours on Clark Air Base in the Philippines and Rhein-Main Air Base in West Germany where he witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall and helped direct refueling and transportation of hardware and personnel for the first Persian Gulf War (1990-1991). He received numerous military awards including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medals, and the Korea Defense Service Medal for his 1970-1971 Korean tour supporting US Air Force General Maloy who commanded and expanded the US military in Korea as part of the United Nations command in Korea.

Denny and Nancy had two children. Susan Denise Scott, born in 1965 who is with us today, and David Anthony Scott, born in 1964 with profound developmental disabilities caused by a rubella infection prior to the development of an immunization. Together the couple worked tirelessly to help David's development including the use of Doman-Delacato, a patterning and motor skills therapy which helped him crawl and then walk – defying medical expectations. Later when completing his MBA, Denny supported Nancy in completing both her BA and MBA and subsequent successful effort to open the Specialized Living Center in Illinois to provide David with a safe place to age as an adult. Unfortunately, in 1981, David died and is buried at the Air Force Academy.

After his military retirement in June 1991, Denny and Nancy settled in Denver and worked together for seven years with USPA-IRA Financial Services. Denny became a Certified Financial Planner and enjoyed helping young families make financial plans for retirement. In early 1999, Denny and Nancy fully retired, began construction on a mountain home in Trinidad, took fly fishing and travel trips with their camper van, and spent time with their daughter and grandchildren Aidan and Fiona.

For the past 25 years, Denny thoroughly enjoyed embracing both the Santa Fe Trail Ranch and Trinidad communities and participating in meaningful volunteer activities including 25 years as a Rotarian with the Trinidad Rotary Club where he was proud to run the annual Ride to End Polio fundraiser. Denny also served for years as a lector and lay eucharistic minister for Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church and was a volunteer member of the Fisher's Peak Fire Prevention District. He and Nancy were also passionate supporters and volunteers for Trinidad's Southern Colorado Repertory Theater. Finally, they traveled extensively in retirement with key trip highlights including: a two-person boat trip up the River Lot in France, the Greek Islands/Holy Land, Australia/New Zealand, the Prado, and southern Portugal.

⇒ 2pm today, Denny will be interred next to David at the Air Force Academy cemetery.
All are invited to the ceremony.

⇒ 3pm today, the family invites all to a lunch reception in the Blue Room at the Academy's Eisenhower Golf Club.

