



Lt.Colonel Dudley John Budrich

March 17, 1934 - September 9, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we announce the passing of retired Lt. Colonel Dudley John Budrich, of Roswell, Georgia. Dudley passed away peacefully on September 9, 2025, at the age of 91.

Born on March 17, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, to Robert and Helen Budrich, Dudley lived a life defined by faith, family, service, and sport. He attended Mount Carmel High School, where he excelled on the football field. Awarded a football scholarship to the University of Kansas, he shared a dormitory with Olympian William "Bill" Nieder and developed a close friendship with basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain. A standout athlete, Dudley was named an All-American football player and played in the Hula Bowl in Hawaii.

Following his graduation in 1957, he was recruited by Vince Lombardi to play for the Green Bay Packers. Choosing instead a life of service, Dudley embarked on a distinguished 26-year military career.

Commissioned at Fort Benning, Georgia, Dudley trained as an Airborne Ranger and went on to serve two tours in Vietnam. Over the course of his career, he was stationed at posts across the United States, in Hawaii, and overseas, earning numerous honors and awards, including two Bronze Stars. He completed his military service in 1983 as part of FORSCOM at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

After retiring from the Army, Dudley continued his career in operations management with Rich's Federated Stores (now Macy's) at Cumberland Mall in Smyrna, Georgia, and later at Rich's Service Center in Stone Mountain,

Georgia.

Athleticism and competition remained central to his life. Dudley was an avid tennis player and runner, regularly participating in tournaments and running for fitness. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he relished any opportunity to watch a game, whether in the stands or on television. Known for his storytelling, he could captivate listeners with tales from his military service—often mixing wisdom with humor.

Dudley will be lovingly remembered by his son, Dan Budrich, and wife Nancy; his daughter, Becky Reiss; his sisters-in-law, Tina Wall and Suzie Hargett; his grandsons, Austin and Kyle Budrich, Christopher Lawley, and Sean and Dylan Reiss; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Patsy Kay Budrich; his daughters, Kristy Kay Budrich and Vivian Noyes; his brother, Robert “Bob” Budrich; and brothers-in-law, Colonel Kenneth Wall and Michael “Mickey” Hargett.

Though we feel the ache of his absence, we take comfort in knowing he is reunited with his cherished loved ones in Heaven—embraced by peace, joy, and the eternal love of God.

If Dudley could speak to us now, he would surely echo the words of Joshua 1:9:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

A committal service with military honors will be held at 11:00 a.m. on September 18, 2025, at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton.

Cemetery Details

Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr
Canton, GA 30114
(770) 479-9300

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Canton, GA 30114
(770) 479-9300

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lt.Colonel Dudley John Budrich.

September 15, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lt.Colonel Dudley John Budrich.



September 15, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ The Finston's purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Lt.Colonel Dudley John Budrich.



The Finston's - September 15, 2025 at 09:57 AM



“ What a wonderful obituary! Although I met Dudley over fifty years ago, I had no idea about his great skills at football, but just a few years ago did hear the military story about his boots being delivered by helicopter! My memories of Dudley will always be of his engaging personality, sense of humor, willingness to help, and his kindness.

Suzie Hargett - September 13, 2025 at 05:07 PM

BL

“ My favorite memory of Uncle Dudley happened on a cruise ship. I never got to spend a lot of time with Dudley, but during our cruise, he shared some terrifically genuine and funny stories about my father-in-law who passed away early in my marriage to my beautiful wife, Candy. My favorite story was one in which he said my father-in-law landed an Army helicopter on the deck of a Navy ship because Dudley forgot his boots. Dudley was a liaison between the Army and the Navy at the time. There probably would've been a court marshal if that had happened today. That's good I have the greatest admiration for Dudley mostly because I have come to know that he raised an incredible son, Dan who I am thankful to call Family. Love you Dan and Nancy...Uncle Dudley was so blessed to have you.

Blake - September 12, 2025 at 08:48 PM

CA

“ My Uncle Dudley took me to get my driver's license on my 16th birthday! This is my favorite memory because as far as I know, he kept my secret for a lifetime. Hmmm, I guess it won't hurt to tell it now. I was so excited and nervous after I passed my drivers test that I ran two red lights on the way home from the DMV!

Candy - September 12, 2025 at 02:15 PM