



# Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili

AUG 22, 1954 - NOV 20, 2023



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MEMORIAL  
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## Daniel Kalili Obituary

Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili passed from this life on November 20, 2023, in the intensive care unit at Pali Momi Medical Center after suffering a fall and brain injury. His family, friends, and loved ones will celebrate his life on January 25 at the Mililani Memorial Park Mauka Chapel beginning with a visitation at 5:30 p.m. and a service to follow at 6:30 p.m. Daniel will be interred at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery in Kane'ohe on January 26 at 1:00 p.m.

On August 22, 1954, John and Peggy Kalili welcomed Daniel, their first child, in Hana, Maui. Daniel's early childhood followed his father's ministry and theological training and he grew up in Hale'iwa, Kalihi, and Princeton, New Jersey. He attended Kapalama Elementary and Kalihi Waena Elementary Schools until he was accepted to the Kamehameha Schools in 7th grade. Daniel is a proud graduate of Kamehameha, Class of 1972. I mua!

In 1972, Congressman Matsunaga appointed Daniel to the U.S. Naval Academy. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Systems Engineering and was commissioned an Ensign on June 2, 1976. Daniel's service in the U.S. Navy spanned 27 years and included tours on several ships and over eight years of duty in the Middle East including an assignment to the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia where he served as an advisor to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

In 1977, Daniel met RoseLee Lopes at Camp Smith where they both celebrated the graduation of her brother from the U.S. Naval Academy. They married in 1980, and in 1981 RoseLee gave birth to their daughter, DreanaLee. Together, they went where the U.S. Navy sent them – Newport, San Diego, Portland, Riyadh – and they traveled extensively across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Commander Kalili retired in 2003 and embarked on a second career working for the Hawai'i State Legislature. Daniel worked for several members of the House of Representatives and was



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best known for his efficiency and organization skills in addition to his chicken hekka, beef tomato, and delicious baked goods.

In his retirement, Daniel served as the president and a deacon of the 'Auwaiolimu Congregational Church, advised Congregational Church of Wahiawa, ran the kitchen for Walk to Emmaus Hawai'i, and supported churches and missions work across Hawai'i and the world. He was also a member of the Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club and the Elizabeth Kahanu Hawaiian Civic Club.

Daniel is survived by RoseLee and DreanaLee, his mother Peggy and sisters Joy and Ruth, his father-in-law Alexander Lopes, Sr., three grandcats (Mila, Stewie, and Gil Grissom), and a host of aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, shipmates, fellow Warriors, capitol colleagues, and friends.

To send flowers to the family, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



## Tribute Wall

**Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili**

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ES

**Expression Of Sympathy** posted:

Footprints tribute blanket was purchased for the family of Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili.

May 14 at 4:00 AM

U7

**Usna 30Th Company '76** posted:

B2 was purchased for the family of Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili by USNA 30th Company '76. Send Flowers Please accept our deep condolences on the loss of your loved one. It is with warm and dear feelings that we remember of our fellow naval officer and brother Dan. USNA 30th Company '76

May 14 at 4:00 AM

ES

**Expression Of Sympathy** posted:

B7 was purchased for the family of Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili. Send Flowers

May 14 at 4:00 AM

KW

**Kēhau Watson** posted:

B6 was purchased for the family of Daniel Keolamauloa Kalili by Kēhau Watson . Send Flowers Sending aloha to you and your ohana. Kēhau Watson

May 14 at 4:00 AM

CR

**Cdr David And Trish Lyle, Usnr (Ret.)** posted:

CDR Kalili was my boss when I was assigned to the Military Training Mission in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was a great leader, and I fondly recall his wisdom, humility and wonderful sense of humor. My wife Trish and I were terribly shocked and saddened to learn of his unexpected passing and extend our deepest sympathy to RoseLee and DreanaLee.

April 10 at 8:21 AM



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SP

**Scott Matthew Provow** posted:

Dan Kalili was a division officer on the USS Hassayampa, AO-145 in the summer of 1977. I was on my 1st class Midshipman Cruise and I roomed with Daniel. He let me hold quarters for his division and assume some duties that other Ensigns probably wouldn't. He also loaned me his car and treated all the other Midshipmen on that Cruise with dignity and that Aloha spirit. Nothing seemed to upset him. Obviously being with him for only 3 weeks he made a huge impression on me. He was a leader of men and a lover of life. Thank you Daniel for being a mentor of mine albeit for only a short while! Go Navy. Scott Provow, 21st company, Class of 1978!

February 5 at 6:58 AM

BY

**Brian Yanagi** posted:

I was one of Dan Kalili's dozen Hawaii plebes that he guided and looked after at the Naval Academy. I had never traveled to the mainland. In 1975, I was an 18 year old anxious and uncertain about traveling twelve hours on the red eye flight to the east coast. It was a welcome sight to see Dan pick me up at Baltimore - Washington International Airport. He booked a hotel room in Annapolis a day before Indoctrination Day to recover from brutal jet lag. Dan always welcomed us to his Bancroft Hall dormitory room where he would break out his hidden (against regulations) rice cooker and local treats from the ceiling panel. We were getting tired of eating potatoes and Uncle Ben's instant rice. Dan booked our Cmas leave flights back to Hnl. However, United Airlines went on strike and our Hawaii Midshipmen got stranded at Dallas Airport. Dan phoned our parents, whom in turn called their Congressmen to urgently get us home. Dan inspired me to similarly take care of other Hawaii midshipmen through the years. Dan truly exemplifies the Aloha Spirit of generosity and giving. I will miss him dearly. Brian YanagiNaval Intelligence Commander (ret)NOAA - United Nations International Tsunami Expert (ret)Hawaii State Civil Defense Earthquake, Tsunami, Volcano Specialist (ret)

January 24 at 10:15 AM

CW

**Chet Wong** posted:

MIDN 1/C Dan Kalili was our saviour at the Naval Academy. Reporting as a Plebe in 1975 our Hawaiian contingent was soon greeted by not just a friendly firstie, but by someone who would go on to keep our spirits alive through the rest of Plebe year. This included having Hawaiian come-arounds, access to a rice cooker and someone who would truly be concerned about our well being. He kept everything in perspective for us and the one event that spoke volumes about his nature was when all of the plebes flying back to Hawaii for Christmas break were stranded in Texas with the airline strikes that had resulted in our cancelled flights. A few calls by Dan to the local congressional offices later, we were on our way home. I will miss Dan's down to earth humility, humor and humanity. Aloha

January 24 at 12:53 AM



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RC

**Ray And Connie Way** posted:

We are so sorry about Daniel's passing. We know he was a wonderful uncle and supporter to our son-in-law Paul. He was always gracious to us. Our hearts and prayers go out to you.

January 9 at 9:42 AM

KS

**Ken Stockwell** posted:

I was so sorry to hear of Dan's passing. We had a lifelong connection as we shared our room together for the final three years at the Naval Academy. From playing squash together (he was tough to beat!) to our many shared activities and challenges during those formative years, my memories of Dan have never faded. I think I was one of the few non-Hawaiian friends who could actually properly pronounce Kaniala Keolamauloa Kalili! We kept in touch now and then and surprisingly found out in more recent years that we had common friends from our separate times in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. His stories and exploits during his tour there were amazing. Such a small world. We will all miss him but I am confident his faith has taken him to a better place.

January 8 at 3:58 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Daniel by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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