



William Baxter Cearley

July 19, 1952 - January 30, 2020

WILLIAM "BILL" CEARLEY

A much-loved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend William Baxter Cearley, 67, of Visalia California, passed away unexpectedly at Kaweah Delta Hospital Visalia California January 30, 2020 with his wife by his side. He had bravely confronted and fought health issues that eventually led to his final stroke. He was born July 19th, 1952 in Jacksonville, Florida, spent his childhood years in Monterey California where he met his oldest best friend (Jim) and (not surprisingly) made many lifelong friends. Bill loved taking many happy trips with his family back to North Carolina during his growing up years to see extended family. (Bill always said his heart was truly in North Carolina). Bill resided in Visalia, California for most of his adult life. He was Sea Scout during his teen years, learning Seamanship, Service and Leadership (except for the time he accidentally sank the boat, a favorite story). He graduated from Mt. Whitney High School in 1970 and entered the United States Marine Corp in 1971, obtaining the rank of Sergeant E-5 and received an Honorable Discharge 1975.

In the United States Marine Corp Bill had various stations and duties and (not surprisingly) made many lifelong friends, working for a while as a Military Police Officer as well as an Air Traffic Controller. Bill was awarded the National Defense Service Medal as well as the Good Conduct Medal. Bill had

many stories about his time in the Marines, but one of his favorites was describing one of his main duties as Air Traffic Controller during his time stationed in San Juan Puerto Rico: Chasing the cows off the Runway so the planes could land.

Bill worked for Model Vending in Visalia after his discharge from the Marine Corp, where (not surprisingly) he made many lifelong friends. He went on to work as a Mental Health Worker at an inpatient acute psychiatric unit Kingsview Tulare View, where (not surprisingly) he made many lifelong friends. Bill then went on to further his education graduating College of the Sequoias RN Program as one of the top of his class, obtaining his License in Registered Nursing in 1993. Bill began his nursing career at Exeter Memorial Hospital working primarily on the Sub Acute Unit where (not surprisingly) he made many lifelong friends. Bill was awarded "Employee of the Year" in 1996 by Exeter Memorial Hospital. Bill then went on in 1996 to finish the rest of his career working as a Registered Nurse at CDCR Corcoran Prison where, (not surprisingly) he went on to make many lifelong friends, working primarily in the prisons acute psychiatric unit, retiring only a little over 4 years ago. Bill loved the mountains- he loved wildlife, the stars; to hike, camp and fish. Bill had many wonderful times in the mountains with wonderful friends and family. Bill especially loved the times he got to spend in Heart Meadow hiking, shooting arrows, napping in the hammock, playing horseshoes and playing the guitar around the campfire with a very special group of close friends (that really are more like family). Generations of Cearley's had the privilege of growing up spending time at the cabin in Heart Meadow learning the really important things in life. Bill also enjoyed golf and until his health declined was always up for a game. Bill loved his garden and feeding the hummingbirds and spent many happy times in his garden digging in the dirt and watching his hummingbirds during his retirement years.

He is survived by his wife of almost 30 years, Jana K. Cearley; son Brian B.

Cearley of Sacramento, CA; son Jonathan A. Cearley Sr. (Liz) of Visalia, CA; son Richard J. Cearley of Visalia, CA, step-daughter (Daughter) Jade K. Davis (Michael); grandsons Jonathan A. Cearley Jr., Ryan Cearley, Leo Cearley, Quinn Malone and granddaughters Sydney Langdon, Sarah Collins and Kayla Collins; sisters Linda Killingsworth and husband Jack of Visalia, CA, Anita Chrisman and husband Robert of Simi Valley, CA; Mother-in-law Linda Weesner; and Brother in-law Brett Hawley as well as numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends from California to North Carolina that love him very much.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charlie Esper Cearley and his mother Elizabeth Mae Cearley.

A Memorial Service will be held at 5pm Saturday, February 8th, 2020, at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel, 127 E Caldwell Ave, Visalia, CA. There will be a dinner to follow the Memorial Service with Cash Bar at the PPAV Hall, 820 E Main St, Visalia, CA 93292. Services will be available to watch live via internet at www.salseranddillard.com.

Interment will be 12pm Monday, February 10th at Bakersfield National Cemetery, 30338 East Bear Mountain Blvd, Arvin, California.

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." Marcel Proust

Memorials may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com

Cemetery Details

Bakersfield National Cemetery

30338 E. Bear Mtn. Blvd.
Arvin, CA 93203

Previous Events

Memorial

FEB 8. 5:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of William Baxter Cearley*



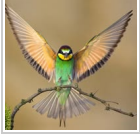
Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 08, 2020 at 07:51 PM



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of William Baxter Cearley*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - February 08, 2020 at 07:51 PM



“ *The Heart Meadow Gang*

*There are places of magic in the world
Where souls alike gather
To celebrate
To laugh
To sing
And talk about what matters.*

*On the west slope of the Sierras
Such a place exists
It's called Heart Meadow
And was homesteaded by the Pitts.*

*For scores of years
Heart Meadow opened it treasures
As a celebratory hamlet
For a man of measure.*

*His name was Bill
Bill Cearley if you will
And every year in July
The Heart Meadow Gang
Convened to celebrate this Birthday Guy.*

*A “simple man” would be ‘his’ descriptor
But we know this to be not true
For his smile and bright eyes became your captor
And won you over ever after.*

*His favorite word was “Hey”
He must have spoke it a thousand times a day.*

*He had a well of stories and jokes
And loved to catch you off guard with his puns and pokes.*

*Horseshoes, archery, song and wine
He often preferred a "sweet girly" drink
Putting his beer aside.*

*Campfires and an outhouse filled with philosophies of the day.
The smell of pine, screeching squirrels, and walking along forested
pathways.*

*Birthday cakes, banjos, and the smell of grass
These became the Heart Meadow traditions
That will forever last.*

*Bill, Thank you for bringing us together
We've been fortunate to know ya.
You blessed us with your wisdom
In the awareness of what matters
Is the friendship that lies before us.*

*The illusory veil of time and space
Does not exist in our memories
And so The Heart Meadow Gang
Will ever prevail as luminous reveries.*

"Hey"



Michelle Hennessey - February 08, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Baxter Cearley.



February 07, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ To the family of Bill Cearley--

It was so surprising to read of Bill's passing. I was only in Visalia for three days, and just happened to open the newspaper the morning that I left.

I met Bill through my older brother, Mike Northrop, a friend and high school classmate of Bill's. As the "little brother" I could have been treated like a nuisance. Bill did nothing of the kind. On the contrary, he always genuinely welcomed me.

Both my brother and I have fond memories of many touch football games and countless summer evenings playing baseball with Bill and their other close buddies. What a great group of guys!

Most likely the last time that I saw Bill was when I came back into town to be in another friend's wedding. Naturally, my brother conned Bill and Bob Lundergan to come out for a game of two-on-two football. My best guess is that would have been around 1980.

Please be assured of my prayers for comfort in your sorrow. My brother and I extend our condolences to you all.

*Rev. Charlie Northrop
New Beginnings Fellowship, Rio Linda, CA*

Charlie northrop - February 07, 2020 at 08:36 PM



“ *Heart Wind Chime - Personalized was purchased for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



February 07, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ *Garden Accent - "Those we love don't go away..." was purchased for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



February 07, 2020 at 02:25 PM



“ *Sending love and hope from Zenith's ERM Team purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



Sending love and hope from Zenith's ERM Team - February 07, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



February 07, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



February 04, 2020 at 10:56 PM



“ *Love, Kathy & David purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



Love, Kathy & David - February 04, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of William Baxter Cearley.*



February 03, 2020 at 02:34 PM

BK

“ It has been such a long time since I worked with Bill at Tulare View, then in Reedley, and lastly in Kingsburg. When I think of Bill I usually think of him playing his guitar, he was like you know, the guitar man! Of course there was also Bill being calm, cool, and collected during some pretty hairy times. Smiling, laughing, calming, patient, good listener, astute, and incredibly mellow which just about sums up Bill from my memory of him. Of course I have always thought the smartest thing Bill ever did was to marry the lovely Jana who equally shared all these same wonderful traits. It was so nice to learn that he lived a well loved life while in the arms of Jana and his family. What a blessing for him and a blessing for them. Thank you Bill for your military service and for your public service as well. You most definitely made a difference. RIP dude you have earned it. Catch ya on the flip side.

Barbara Kane - February 03, 2020 at 12:56 PM

TL

“ That laugh and smile he had was contagious. He was a good man.

Tim Lukens - February 03, 2020 at 12:07 PM