



Mark Wayne Bryant

October 26, 1949 - September 2, 2022

This is not going to be your ordinary obituary as Mark was not your ordinary man.

We met on a blind date in the summer of 1968. Mark had already enlisted in the Marines when he graduated from Bloomington high school in May of 1968. He left for basic in September and came home on leave in January of 1969 before going to Vietnam as a machine gunner. We got married on February 19, 1969, 4 days before he was to return to San Diego. We put a lot of living in those 4 days. I didn't see Mark for 13 months and our daughter Cheryl had just turned 5 months when he came home on the early President Nixon's troop withdrawn from Vietnam.

Mark lived with those demons of war from the time he set foot in country until he took his own life September 2, 2022.

He was so proud of being a Marine. He joined the Army reserve in 1974 and became a drill Sergeant on June 16, 1975. He always said it was an honor to serve his country.

We have three children, Cheryl Underwood (Caleb), Michael Bryant (Amy), and Steven Bryant (Jeannie). We have 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Mark worked at RCA in the maintenance dept for 28 years until they closed the doors. He then worked at COOK Imaging until Mr. Cook sold to Baxter. He was proud to work in the Microbiology Lab with coworkers that were younger than our kids. We had a bonfire every October for his lab and we enjoyed that time so much.

Mark is at peace now. Per his wishes he was cremated and his Marine Corp urn now sits on our fireplace mantel.

Keep all our veterans in your prayers as they will never be the same after seeing and experiencing the horrors of war.

Semper Fi my love.

Tribute Wall

RC

“ Mark and I joined the Marine Corps together on the buddy program it gave us ten extra days of leave after training. We were in boot camp together, infantry training and machine gun school together. We flew home for our 20 day leave and returned to Camp Pendleton for staging. Flew to Okinawa side by side and to Vietnam. That's where he was assigned too a different unit than mine. After nine months I was wounded and was returned to Okinawa t to complete my tour. The Garrick's I was assigned was quite full and I was walking through looking for a bunk I heard a very familiar voice. And to our amazement we met again. We actually transferred out and flew to the good ole United States together. We both had other orders for assignments elsewhere however the Marine Corps being an Expeditionary force they gifted us an early release since we had served over 18 months. We excepted and I have a photograph of us holding our pink ID card from discharge. And crazy as it may seem with no car or Uber we walked about 5 miles till we found a McDonalds and we feasted like it was the last supper. We waited forever in LA to get a military standby seat home. Lucky us about 2:00 am we caught a flight to Indianapolis and we talked the entire flight home. Met our families and went separate ways forever. I moved around ended up in Florida and in the days before cell phones, internet and Facebook we never reconnected. Mark was an honorable Marine and witnessed and participated in what some call a conflict. Well I can tell you it was a war and the conflict was at home afterwards. Semper Fi to my “buddy”and I know your pain and it is gone. My sincerest regards to his family and all those who loved him. Mark will be missed by us all . And neither one of us thought we were hero's, the hero's didn't come home. God Bless

Roger Crase - September 13, 2022 at 02:22 PM

MB

“ *Melissa Beard lit a candle in memory of Mark Wayne Bryant*



Melissa Beard - September 12, 2022 at 11:14 AM

SH

“ *I worked with Mark at Baxter. Sadly, I didn't really start talking to him until he was close to retirement. However, I loved talking with him about his past as much as I could. He was so friendly and warm. I'm very sorry to hear that he is no longer with us. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, children and grandchildren.*

Shestin

Shestin - September 12, 2022 at 10:35 AM

CB

“ *Dearest Vicky, I am so sorry to hear about Mark! The obituary you wrote was just beautiful and it gave me a special insight into this man. That war wounded the minds of so many service men and women and their families. I'll never forget that time at Walmart when we had our "play fight", which was the first time I had met your hubby. We sure had him going! He couldn't stop apologizing for you (I do believe he thought you had lost your mind...lol. I think he was afraid we were going to start pulling each others hair or go straight to the kicking and biting!) You've been a wonderful wife and friend to him through all these years. I really miss you my friend and I'll be praying for you and your family.*



Connie Boruff - September 11, 2022 at 10:20 PM

SS

“ Our deepest sympathies to you and your family as you mourn and celebrate his life. I was a BHS classmate. My husband served in Vietnam as an Army Airborne Ranger leading a platoon. He enlisted after college in 1967. What a horrible war, lived on through the lives of service men and women and their families. How very fortunate, your husband lived a life after Vietnam surrounded with love - giving that love back to family, friends, and co-workers. Thank you for your obituary. Know you and your family are in our prayers.

Susie (Brenda) Sciscoe-Craig - September 11, 2022 at 01:42 PM

BL

“ Vicky and family,
I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember coming to your house back in the day and meeting your blind kitty. I remember your house was the first place I played a video game (sking) I sucked at it and still do.
I think about you each time I go past that trailer park you lived in when I met you all.
You and Mark was so cool and I will never forget how welcomed I felt.
Blue

Blue - September 11, 2022 at 08:04 AM

DH

“ Worked with Mark many years, Had a lot of good times at RCA, Our thoughts and prayers goes out to Vicki and his kids and grands kids.

Danny R Harp - September 10, 2022 at 09:02 PM

JC

I'm so sorry for your loss ! I truly appreciate all he did for our country !

Jody Cox - September 11, 2022 at 03:43 PM

LB

“ One of the first memories of Mark was when the family lived above the donut shop. I was pregnant with his nephew at the time. We used to laugh at how scared his kids would get when Sammy Terry came on Friday nights.
The other memory is also from the same location and hearing Stairway To Heaven (the long version) almost EVERY. SINGLE. TIME. I visited them. When that song comes on now, I think of Mark EVERY. SINGLE. TIME. 🥹💔🙏👉

LAURIE BRYANT - September 10, 2022 at 04:56 PM

BE

“ Beautiful obituary! Prayers of comfort to the family!

Brenda Enochs - September 10, 2022 at 04:31 PM