



## Maurice "Bear" Vallair

March 8, 1938 - November 13, 2013

Maurice "Bear" Vallair, one of seventeen children born to the union of the late John and Alberta (Ismel) Vallair, was born March 8, 1938 in Helbig, Texas. He passed away Wednesday, November 13, 2013 in the Christian Health Care North of Lebanon, Missouri. He had attained the age of 75 years.

Bear, as he was known to his family and friends, grew up in Beaumont, Texas. He graduated from Charlton Pollard High School in 1954. In 1955, he entered the United States Army.

During his military career, which spanned 26 ½ years, Bear faithfully served his country during the Vietnam War and earned several awards and commendations. Some of these include: Army Occupation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon – 3; Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star, Army Commendation Medal – 3, NCP Professional Development Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal (8th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Palm, Marksman Qualification Badge M-16 and the Meritorious Service Medal. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant and retired in 1985.

After retiring from the military, Bear began working as a civil service employee as a recreation specialist and retired again in 2008 after 21 years of service.

During his time in the military, Bear met Karen Lee Hart. She was an active duty soldier as well stationed at Fort Leonard Wood. When he saw Karen, Bear made the comment to a friend that "I'm just going to marry that woman" and he did. They were united in marriage on October 25, 1980 and shared over 30 years together and three children: Ricky, Adam and Maurita. Karen preceded him in death on July 14, 2011.

If you were to ask Bear what he enjoyed doing in his spare time, his reply would be "golf, golf and more golf". You could never play too much golf as far as he was concerned. He also loved to play a mean game of dominos and listening to Southern Gospel Quartet Music. It was a known fact that Bear could fix some good BBQ and he enjoyed fixing some for his family and friends.

Bear made a profession of faith at an early age and he attended the Church of the Nazarene of Waynesville. He was also a member of the Francis J. Lynch VFW #3168 of Laquey and the American Legion Post #331 of St. Robert.

Bear will be missed by all those that knew and loved him. He leaves to cherish his memory his three children: Ricky Vallair (Falcia) of Missouri City, TX, Adam Vallair (Angela) of Waynesville, MO and Maurita Vallair of Waynesville, MO; six siblings: Andrew Vallair of the state of Georgia, James Vallair of the state of Maryland, Anniebell Gaidry, Ida Scott, Hazel Beloney and Virginia Hardin, all of the state of Texas; five grandchildren; two step grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one step great grandchild; other relatives and a host of friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Bear was preceded in death by seven brothers: John, Joe, Ernest, Charlie, Frank, Aubrey and Alex; and three sisters: Dorothy, Betty and Louise.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 22, 2013 in the First Church of the Nazarene of Waynesville with Rev. Jason Stevens officiating. Maruita Vallair, Bear's daughter, gave a beautiful eulogy and recalled her wonderful memories of her father. Soloist Dianne Pressley sang "He Hung the Moon" and Soloist Kathy Haymaker sang "Underneath His Wings". Serving as escorts were Adam Vallair, Ricky Vallair, Les Pero, Jack Vaughan, Cecil Caldwell and Lou Farkasdi.

Burial with military honors followed in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery – Fort Leonard Wood. Military honors were provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

# Cemetery Details

## Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H  
Waynesville, MO 65583

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
[memorialchapels@embarqmail.com](mailto:memorialchapels@embarqmail.com)

## Service

NOV **22**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Church of the Nazarene  
Waynesville, MO

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - November 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Maurice "Bear" Vallair*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Vallair "The Bear" was a great soldier, approachable, and loved having fun.*



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**N. Russum** - November 22, 2022 at 11:51 AM

EB

“ 1SG Vallair was my First Sergeant at D-1-3 after I completed Drill Sergeant School 1983. As a leader he put an everlasting impression in my heart. He would say “Do your job to its fullness and if you have any problems come see me.” Over the years I would call him now and then just to say hello and thanks for the great leadership. Ret, 1SG Edwin C. Bennett



Edwin C Bennett - November 21, 2022 at 09:37 PM

JM

Sgt. Bennett. You were part of my Cadre at D-1-3 Feb - April 1984. I was 1st Plt with Burgess, Steffen and Hollice. I remember Sgt. Vallair looking over us all during training and walking through the barracks on Sundays making sure we went to church and wrote letters home. He was kind of the calm in the storm.

jeffrey Mahon - January 26 at 07:24 PM

SJ

“ SARA JONES sent a virtual gift in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



SARA JONES - November 26, 2013 at 10:06 PM

WS

“ Wendy Shickles lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



Wendy Shickles - November 26, 2013 at 08:13 AM

JB

“ *Jill Boehle lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



Jill Boehle - November 24, 2013 at 03:13 PM

DS

“ *I remember Bear from the gym when I used to play volleyball. I used to think he was grumpy but when I saw him smile it was really glorious and I realized he wasn't really a grump. Even though I moved away many years ago, I will never forget him. God Bless to the family.*

Debbie (Taylor) Savoie - November 19, 2013 at 08:47 AM

MS

“ *IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY*



MARLIN STEVENS - November 19, 2013 at 07:48 AM

MS

“ *MARLIN STEVENS lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



MARLIN STEVENS - November 18, 2013 at 01:59 PM

PC

“ Our condolences and deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one. "Bear" will be greatly missed by our golfers, and the Staff and Management of the Piney Valley Golf Course.



Piney Valley Golf Course - November 18, 2013 at 11:57 AM

JG

“ Jan Gray lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



Jan Gray - November 18, 2013 at 08:23 AM

KK

“ Keith And Ann Kryger lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



Keith and Ann Kryger - November 16, 2013 at 10:01 PM

JT

I was the Senior Drill Instructor in the Bear's Company, he taught me everything I knew about being Soldier. God Bless him and our prayers are with his family. James Trudell

james Trudell - November 19, 2013 at 02:31 PM

MR

“ We are so sorry for your loss. If there is anything we can do please let us know.  
Chuck and Mary Richards



mary richards - November 16, 2013 at 08:39 PM

SJ

“ SARA JONES lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



SARA JONES - November 16, 2013 at 04:36 PM

MS

“ Marge And Gordon Scott lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



Marge and Gordon Scott - November 16, 2013 at 11:35 AM

DC

“ Deloris Conyers lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



Deloris Conyers - November 16, 2013 at 10:23 AM

JH

“ *Jim Holloway lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



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**jim holloway** - November 16, 2013 at 09:59 AM

SW

“ *Stephen Woolsey lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



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**Stephen Woolsey** - November 16, 2013 at 09:35 AM

SF

“ *Shanna Fowler lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



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**Shanna Fowler** - November 16, 2013 at 08:49 AM

BH

“ *Beatrice Hayes lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair*



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**Beatrice Hayes** - November 16, 2013 at 08:30 AM

JB

“ I know you will be missed by many and I will miss seeing you on the golf course but you are playing the best game of your life now god bless my friend.

john Bell - November 16, 2013 at 07:07 AM

JB

“ Sorry to hear of Bears' passing. He was a great man and co-worker in the late 80's-90's.



Janell Mathews (3d Tng Bde) - November 15, 2013 at 09:54 PM

SJ

“ SARA JONES lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



SARA JONES - November 15, 2013 at 06:46 PM

LL

“ BEAR WAS A VERY SPECIAL HUSBAND, FATHER, GRANDFATHER. WE WILL MISS HIM SO MUCH. BUT WE KNOW HE IS IN HEAVEN CELEBRATING WITH KAREN ALL OUR LOVE TO THE FAMILIES. GOD HAS HIS ARMS WRAPPED AROUND YOU.

LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON - November 15, 2013 at 04:56 PM

LL

“ LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON - November 15, 2013 at 04:53 PM

LC

“ LINDA COLE-SCHONBOK lit a candle in memory of Maurice "Bear" Vallair



LINDA COLE-SCHONBOK - November 15, 2013 at 04:07 PM

LC

Was my pool partner years ago~~ hopefully they have a pool table in heaven for you :)

LINDA COLE-SCHONBOK - November 15, 2013 at 04:08 PM