



Arvil Coye Beard Jr.

February 2, 1949 - June 10, 2021

Arvil “Arvie” Coye Beard, Jr., loving husband, caring father, and dedicated grandfather passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on June 10, 2021. He was born in Pittsburgh, California on February 2, 1949, to Clara Arleatha Dunn Beard and Arvil Coye Beard, Sr. After the death of his parents when he was seven, he and his sister went to live with their uncle and aunt, Floyd and Betty Gibbs, where they were raised with their three cousins.

Arvie graduated from Pittsburgh Senior High School in 1967 and enlisted in the United States Air Force. This would begin his over 20-year career as an Air Force Material Manager before retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant in 1990. During his years of honorable service, Arvie received several honors including: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Vietnam Service Metal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, among several others.

During his Air Force career, he was stationed in California, Germany, Japan, and finally Chanute AFB in Rantoul, Illinois. Upon his retirement, he worked on the Chanute Base Closure Committee for two years and helped ensure a smooth transition from military to civil ownership of the base. In 1994, Arvie started working at Lincoln’s Challenge Academy in Rantoul, Illinois where he was the Budget and Logistics Director. He worked in this position until his retirement in 2014.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Dale Beard of Loda, a son, Jeff Beard (Michelle) of Woodbridge, Virginia, two daughters, Wendy Beard D'Elia (Jay) of Roy, Utah, and Heather Rawlings Wilson (Mike) of Paxton. He is survived by one sister, Rhonda Gonsalves (Bob) of Concord, California, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

One of his greatest joys was being "Papa" to his grandchildren, Miranda Beard Borhauer (Ansel), Alex Beard, Kayla D'Elia Gallegos (Garrett), Tyler D'Elia, Jonah Wilson (Sarah), Landon Wilson, Olivia Wilson, and Kate Wilson. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clara Arleatha Beard and Arvil Coye Beard, Sr.

Arvie is remembered for his strong faith, his friendliness, his laugh, his patriotism, his ridiculously amazing organizational skills, and how much he loved his family and friends. He enjoyed playing golf and playing games in the yard with his family. He always loved the water whether it was surfing as a teenager in California or spending the day on the pontoon boat at Bayles Lake with family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at Gibson City Bible Church on July 6, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. with a visitation held from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Pastor Jonah Wilson will officiate the service. A military burial will be held on July 7, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

Memorials can be made to The Forgotten Initiative (<https://theforgotteninitiative.org>), an organization supporting the foster care community.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUL 6. 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Gibson City Bible Church
309 N State Route 47
Gibson City , IL 60936
<http://gibsoncitybible.org/>

Memorial Service

JUL 6. 6:30 PM (CT)

Gibson City Bible Church
309 N State Route 47
Gibson City , IL 60936
<http://gibsoncitybible.org/>

Military Burial

JUL 7. 1:30 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road

Elwood, IL 60421

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

Tribute Wall

RC

“ Dale and Family, I met Arvie back in the mid 80's and found him to be a wonderful man, he was very personable and we almost instantly became good friends. Shortly there after I met his beautiful wife. He was a STRONG Christian man and a pleasure to work with. I am very saddened to hear of his passing and I pray for all your family. Please keep the faith which Arvie held so strongly to his heart and may he be proud of the person you have grown into. May God joyfully welcome his into his arms. I for one will miss him.

Rick and Bev Colbert - July 08, 2021 at 04:37 PM

CN

“ Dear Dale and Family,

I'm so sorry to hear of Arvie's passing. He was a trusted mentor and advisor during my time at LCA, as well as a well respected department supervisor to many others. Everyone who worked there knew that Arvie was a person of faith and integrity for sure. His actions matched his words and he always meant business.

My heart goes out to you and your family during this difficult time. I'm unable to attend the services due to work commitments, but please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

*My Best,
Cindy Neitzel*

Cindy Neitzel - July 07, 2021 at 03:39 PM

JA

So sorry to hear of of Arvie's passing. I was looking on line to see how he was doing and found out he had passed. He was a good man. I was stationed with him in Germany and he had me over his house many times. What a lost. I also stayed in the air Force for over 20 years. With that said if you have friends that you haven't talked to in a long time it's time to look them up. Rip my friend

Jay - October 06, 2024 at 01:33 PM

BB

“ I know my husband Sam Bauer greeted Arvie with the biggest HUGS and TEARS ever as they saw each other. Can hear them CRY and LAUGH at the same time. JOY and JOY in their hearts and soul in their Promised Eternity Forever. I'm sure Jesus wept with Joy with them. FAITHFUL MEN. GOD LOVING MEN AMEN Will see our loves soon. Right Dale. See You soon. Bev

Bev Bauer - June 25, 2021 at 06:33 PM

JJ

He was a great person and was a very good mentor for me in the air force. I was stationed with him in Germany. He had us (people in the barracks) over his house many times. He will be missed. Rip buddy.

Jay jablonsky - May 03, 2025 at 12:46 PM

DC

*“ I worked with Mr. Beard at Lincoln's Challenge Academy and he was a pleasure to work with. He was always kind and caring. I'm sorry to learn of his passing and send my deepest sympathy to Dale and his family who he loved so much!!!
Debby Calderella*

Debra Calderella - June 25, 2021 at 11:45 AM