



Robert "Bob" E. Laird

April 8, 1929 - May 19, 2024

Robert Earl Laird, of Willcox, passed away in his sleep on May 19 at the age of 95 with his family at his side.

Bob was born at his grandfather's farm near McKinney, Texas on April 8, 1929. During his childhood, Bob's family moved 16 times, residing in four states and ten different towns. He attended at least 18 different schools and assisted with the family income by picking cotton, pulling cotton bolls, hoeing cotton fields, and following the wheat harvest all the way to South Dakota.

Bob graduated from Lakeview High School where he was a member of the football, basketball, baseball, and track teams. He also participated in tennis, softball, and boxing. When the bus driver moved his senior year, he even drove the school bus.

When he was 18 years old, Bob enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he served proudly for four years, two in Korea where he was assigned to the Marine Corps Engineer Battalion. Bob was part of the Inchon landing and the capture and securing of Seoul. He also participated in the Wonsan-Hungnam-Chosin Campaign.

After being discharged from the Marines, Bob moved at least 18 more times, living in five states and seven cities. He worked various jobs including surveyor, truck driver, and aircraft machinist.

In 1972, he moved to Willcox and soon met Jean Cotten Barnes and her three children. Love struck, he never moved again. Bob was devoted to Jean for the remainder of his life and their entire marriage of almost 51 years. While living

in Willcox, he worked for the Cochise County Farmer's Association.

Bob loved camping, square dancing, and spending time with his many friends and family. He loved fishing anyplace, but Alaska was his favorite. He patiently taught his children, grandchildren, and their numerous friends to water ski, fish, and camp. He and Jean were avid travelers, visiting 48 states and 16 countries together.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife Jean, stepdaughter Beth (Sam) Lesley, granddaughters Holli (Allen) Fallbeck and Sondra Lesley, grandson Jacob (Kathleen) Barnes, seven great grandchildren, and many good friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Luther and Tennie Laird, brother Charles (Delores) Laird, sister Peggy (Harold) Brown, and three stepsons - Richard Miller, Brit Barnes and Troy Barnes.

Funeral Service will be 10:00 am on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Westlawn Chapel. Burial will follow in Sunset Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Cemetery

N. Sunset Strip Road
Willcox, AZ 85643

Previous Events

Funeral

JUN 8. 10:00 AM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.
105 S Arizona Avenue
Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2413
westwx@vtc.net
<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall

RL

“ RJ, Casey, Justin, Bryce & Dylan Laird purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" E. Laird.



RJ, Casey, Justin, Bryce & Dylan Laird - June 05, 2024 at 10:10 PM

RL

“ RJ, Casey, Justin, Bryce & Dylan Laird planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" E. Laird.

RJ, Casey, Justin, Bryce & Dylan Laird - June 05, 2024 at 10:10 PM

RL

“ To the Family: I came to see Bob in 2021 with my late wife, Dee. He and I got to talk about our service years and about his father Charles Luther and my father, Luther J Laird. I met Jean Arlean and I played him a tune he remembered on my guitar. We had a cold Texas Shiner Boch together. Bob was a good friend and I wish I had known him earlier. We talked a lot over the phone and he always ended the call with, " Im always here at closing time". I will miss him dearly, as he reminded me so much of my father , LJ. You are in my prayers_RJ Laird

RJ Laird - June 05, 2024 at 09:54 PM

CD

“ Carol Dickson lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Carol Dickson - May 30, 2024 at 11:58 PM

KB

“ Katie Bethel lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Katie Bethel - May 28, 2024 at 12:45 PM

CM

“ Craig, Sue, Calvin Brown & Fay Martinez purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert "Bob" E. Laird.



Craig, Sue, Calvin Brown & Fay Martinez - May 27, 2024 at 08:25 PM

CM

“ Craig, Sue, Calvin Brown & Fay Martinez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" E. Laird.

Craig, Sue, Calvin Brown & Fay Martinez - May 27, 2024 at 08:25 PM

EG

“Wow, what a guy! Such an honor to have known him. Bob was/is truly one of our fondest memories of Willcox. He & Mrs. Laird always made a Sunday morning @ church special. A Marine vet of Korea; that experience served even more to identify Bob as so much on all levels---patriot, warrior, hero, loving husband, father/grandfather, friend, Christian, kindness, generosity, wisdom, intellect. Indeed, his devotion & love to Jean was inspiring, & exemplary of what God's design & construct for marriage was/is all about. Heaven is literal for the presence of God, but it is also reunion. Such a comfort to know he is there now with family, comrades, friends. He is missed. Our sympathies to the family, sweet Jean, & everyone who was so blessed for knowing him.

Love.....Earl & Wanda Goolsby, Yukon, Oklahoma

Earl Goolsby - May 26, 2024 at 05:27 PM

JB

“Johnny and Donna Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Johnny and Donna Brown - May 25, 2024 at 12:55 AM

DL

“Dakota Levine lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Dakota Levine - May 24, 2024 at 06:43 PM

KT

“ *Kathy Thatcher sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird*



Kathy Thatcher - May 24, 2024 at 06:37 PM

AT

“ *Anselmo & Bertha Torres sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird*



Anselmo & Bertha Torres - May 24, 2024 at 03:24 PM

EH

“ *Ellen Hedges lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird*



Ellen Hedges - May 24, 2024 at 01:27 PM

AF

“ *Annie Torres & Family lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird*



Annie Torres & Family - May 24, 2024 at 12:13 PM

CD

“ Carol Dunagan lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Carol Dunagan - May 24, 2024 at 10:42 AM

JA

“ John & Susan Arbuthnot lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



John & Susan Arbuthnot - May 24, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ Betsy Ajeman lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Betsy Ajeman - May 24, 2024 at 07:52 AM

GM

“ Gus & Rita Morales lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Gus & Rita Morales - May 24, 2024 at 12:01 AM

CC

“ Bob was a special friend, Chad's fishing buddy and best friend. Jean, Beth and family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you all.
Chad, Carol & Dylan



Carol Case - May 24, 2024 at 12:01 AM

JS

“ Judy and Jon Smith lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Judy and Jon Smith - May 23, 2024 at 11:06 PM

GA

“ Gussie & Sharon Arzberger lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Laird



Gussie & Sharon Arzberger - May 23, 2024 at 10:17 PM