



## Robert Lee Callahan

March 19, 1932 - October 3, 2020

Robert Lee Callahan, “Bob,” was welcomed into his eternal home by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on October 3, 2020 at the VA Home in Mt Vernon, Missouri.

A gentle, kind man who loved and trusted God, Bob always believed the best in people and served his family, friends and even strangers humbly, generously and graciously.

Robert, the oldest of three children, was born on March 19, 1932 in Bismark, MO, the son of Elmer Lee and Mamie Callahan. He is survived by his two children: son, Robert P. Callahan and wife Donna; daughter, Brenda and husband Dennis Owens; grandchildren Heather Stonestreet, and husband Michael; Esther Munch and husband Aaron; Lance Callahan and wife Hillary; and Zachary Owens and wife Amanda. He was blessed with five great grandchildren: Katherine Stonestreet, Sophia Owens, Frances Munch, Max Owens and Sadie Callahan. He is also survived by his sister, Nancy (Callahan) Peal, sister-in-law, Ellie (Reid) Winters and her husband Cecil Winters. Numerous nieces and nephews whom he loved also survive him.

Bob lived his formative years in Poplar Bluff, MO, and graduated high school from Poplar Bluff in 1950. It was in high school that he met the love of his life, Gerry (Reid) Callahan, his “Beautiful Blue Eyed Girl” as he always referred to her. They married on September 8, 1951 and began a priceless love story of 66 years that their family cherishes. This legacy includes the unconditional love demonstrated this past decade in his tender, tireless caregiving as Gerry faded from him with her Alzheimer’s battle.

Also predeceased are his parents and stepmother, Irene (Robinson) Callahan, brother, Kenneth Callahan, one sister-in-law, and two brother-in-laws.

Bob served his country proudly with an Army career of 30 years. He is an honored veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam War. He valiantly served our country as a combat member of the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles in Vietnam. Among numerous military decorations and medals, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic service and meritorious achievement in a combat zone.

Prior to his military career, he managed theaters in Cairo, IL. He enjoyed sharing accounts of how he and Gerry worked in theaters together as young high school sweethearts. Following his military career and future work with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Engines in Columbus, GA. Bob and Gerry moved to Bolivar, MO. It was in Bolivar that Bob continued to work, joyously supporting Dennis in the operation of Simon B's Eatery and serving as Plant Supervisor at First Baptist Church.

Bob enjoyed fishing and model train layouts but his love was serving his God, his family and country. This love was reflected in his retirement lifestyle of daily Bible study, listening to gospel music, and volunteer service at church. His love for family gatherings gave him much joy, especially the laughter around the dinner table and giggles of his grandbabies. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held 11:30 AM Friday, October 9, 2020 under the direction of Dennis Owens, at the High Street Church, 900 North Eastgate Ave, Springfield, MO 65802. Visitation will be held one hour prior to services from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Church. Bob will be placed to rest prior to his celebration of life in a private family service at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield, MO. where Rob Callahan, Dennis Owens, Zach Owens, Lance Callahan, Aaron Munch and Frosty Ross will act as pallbearers. Memorial contributions may be made to the High Street Church Mission Project.

# Comments

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



October 08 at 03:26 PM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



October 07 at 12:02 PM

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“ Jerry,Faye,Becky, Lance,Angela,,Nathan, and Jon. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



**Jerry,Faye,Becky, Lance,Angela,,Nathan, and Jon.** - October 06 at 08:44 PM

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“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



October 06 at 03:50 PM

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“ We were not just next-door neighbors at Ft. Benning, Georgia but our two families just ‘clicked’. Bob and Dad. fast became fishing buddies – the size of their catch growing with each telling. Gerry and Mom were both ‘talkers’ but neither seemed to be bothered by the fact that the other was not a ‘listener’. Rob and Frosty became best friends. It is impossible for me to think of the Callahans without thinking of the many weekends our families spent together camping, fishing, swimming, and skiing at Bluff Creek.

The families remained close after both Bob and Dad retired from service. Several years after their retirement, they had a vigorous debate over which one could still fit in his uniform. Anyone can see from the photographs that with a little help from a rope, Dad lost the bet because Bob could ‘fit’ but giggling and laughter was so robust we could hardly breath.

Eventually Bob and Gerry moved to Missouri. Even though separated by miles, the families remained friends. They may have gone months without contact, but each knew when they did connect it would be as if they had never been apart. And each knew they could depend upon the other if they needed anything.

The world has lost an amazing man whose history is woven into the fiber of our family and he and Gerry will live on in our memories and in our family stories. Related not by blood but by love.

Love you all,  
Cathy Ross Brewer



Cathy Brewer - October 06 at 02:18 PM

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“ My condolences to you and family. I remember him as a nice, friendly person.  
Mick Hood

Mick Hood - October 06 at 01:38 PM

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“ Andy, Frosty and Cathy's families (Opal & Jr. too) purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



Andy, Frosty and Cathy's families (Opal & Jr. too) - October 06 at 12:35 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



October 06 at 11:37 AM

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“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Callahan.



October 06 at 11:28 AM

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“ Even before Heather and I married and became a member of the Callahan family, G'pa and G'ma Callahan always welcomed me and my daughter into the family. G'pa gave my daughter a home when Heather and I were looking for a place to live in Bolivar. You and Gerry gave me and my daughter so much love. You shared stories with me. As a combat vet, I often felt alone and like no one could understand. You helped me to see that you were there for me. I am so glad that you are with G'ma and I know you are no longer in pain. I will always remember our time together and the kindness that you showed us.



**Michael Stonestreet** - October 05 at 11:05 PM

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“ Saying goodbye is always the hardest. Thank you for being the best Uncle I could have asked for. We will miss you terribly but know that you are rejoicing being with Aunt Gerry again. Until we see you again.



**Leslie German** - October 05 at 03:17 PM



“ Bob was a wonderful person and he will be missed

**tessa north** - October 05 at 07:43 PM