



David Alexander

October 13, 1944 - February 11, 2011

On Friday, the 11th of February, retired 1SG David Alexander passed away at age 66 from a stroke at Eastern New Mexico Medical center.

David is survived by his wife of 44 years, Rose Alexander, his daughter Melissa, age 32, his son, Sean, age 24, his grandson, Asher, age 2, and his brother, Jerry, age 64. David is preceded in death by his brothers Bob and Bill, his sister Pat, and his mother Lois. He is also survived by 10 nieces and nephews and the many members of his wife's family.

He was born in Ada, Oklahoma and spent his childhood in Southeastern, NM. He joined the army at age 17 and served his country in the 101st, 173rd, and 82nd Airborne Army Divisions for over 20 years. He served his country proudly in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive in 1966, 1967, and 1968. During his Vietnam deployment he earned the Bronze Star with valor for bravery in battle. After retiring from the military in 1981, he began teaching at Albuquerque High School, where he spent 10 years as a JROTC Instructor. He and his family moved to Roswell in 1991 where he began his final career as a Leadership Education and Training instructor in the JROTC department at New Mexico Military Institute. During his time at NMMI, he coached the color guard team, organized and ran the annual drill meet, and taught over two thousand cadets. His cadets loved him and many of them continued to keep in touch with him over the years.

David was an extraordinary man who loved his family, served his country, and helped shape the lives of many young people. His favorite times were those

he spent in the mountains, fishing with his family. He loved building things and working with his hands, telling jokes, debating politics, and calf roping.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, February 17th at 1 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Roswell with Dr. Hugh Burroughs officiating.

Honorary pallbearers will be Sean Alexander, Asher Jones Witt, Jerry Alexander, Howard Cotton Patton, and Floyd Bell.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and memories with the family in the online register book at andersonbethany.com.

Arrangements are under the directions of Anderson Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

Tribute Wall

CL

“ It's been 24 years since I have even thought of Instructor Alexander. A few days ago, I happened to pass through Roswell and took a walk around NMMI. It was spring break and the students were not there so I had the campus to myself and to reflect. It was a time capsule, everything was just as I had remembered it back in 1998 and 1999. Anyway, I had Mr Alexander as an instructor and remembered he was an good and entertaining teacher. He once said the only 2 things that annoyed him were wet toilet paper and cold coffee. Haha. For some reason this memory stood at the most, as well as his description of being shot in Vietnam. He was a a good instructor and funny as well. Will be missed.

Christopher Lellis - March 27, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ *David Alexander*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM

KM

“ *when i learned about 1sg Alexander's passing my heart dropped. It has been more than two years since but i really wanted to say that 1sg really impacted my life. I was in color guard and his style of teaching and humor made long trips on the road worth it. Thanks for the memories at NMMI 1SG. may God bless your soul as well as your family*

Kan Mam - August 06, 2013 at 03:19 PM

MH

“ I am really sorry to learn about Dave's passing. He was a joy to work with-always enthusiastic and energetic with a great smile that flashed. Dave always treated me with respect, kindness and cooperation. I could count on him to make time for me or my requests when ever I needed him. He absolutely loved his family and was very proud of them. Please know that I am thinking of you Melissa.

Marla Higginbotham - March 17, 2011 at 10:22 AM

KO

“ I really like the picture of Dave. He has that mischievous look in his eye that meant he was about to tell you something whether you wanted to hear it or not. I could sit and talk to Dave for hours and never talk about the same thing twice, he was never at a loss for words and what he said always seem to make a lot of sense. You would think someone with all that military training would have been prepared for the infamous chicken dinner, but alas he was not. However he did recoup quite nicely, I know this because I was one of the twelve that pounced that fateful day. Rose, Missy, Sean and Asher we Love you guys very much and Dave will be sorely Missed. Love, Kevin

Kevin O'Rourke - March 08, 2011 at 06:30 PM

RP

“ David Alexander was my brother-in-law; I knew him since I was four years old. He was brave enough to marry the first born in an Irish-Catholic family of 12 children. He loved my sister. He used to tell a story about the first time he was invited to our home for Sunday fried chicken dinner, back when he was courting Rose. I think this must have been a milestone in their budding relationship; the invite, and acceptance, was significant, ripe with meaning, and expectations, and it was a test. We were checking him out, and thinking things like who is this man, is he good enough for her, what are his intentions, will he buy me an ice cream; but no one knows what David was thinking as he sat at the table, Mom and Dad at each end, and 12 sets of curious eyes all staring at him. He described us as savages, forks in hand, ready to attack. It was likely more frightening than any military enemy he ever faced. My father warned us to allow our guest to serve himself first and we said grace. Dave reached for a piece of chicken and we pounced. He claims he came back with a bloody stub. In other versions he said he pulled his hand back and there were seven forks sticking out. He told the story countless times and we never tired of hearing it. We are glad we had him for a brother. He will be missed.

Rita Pecos - March 07, 2011 at 09:26 PM

JP

“ Dave otherwise know to me as General Alexander or Private Alexander was a tremendous person in all aspects of life. He always made me laugh, always had a smile and was just fun to talk to. It was quite easy to rile Dave, all you had to say was democrat and the fight would be on. I loved to verbally joust with him. I will dearly miss him and will keep good thoughts for Rose, Missy, Sean and Asher. Take care Dave, rest in peace and stay to the right! or Left!

Joe Pecos - March 04, 2011 at 03:20 PM

JL

“ My condolences to the Alexander family and to Rosie. I have fond memories to serving with both 1SG Alexander and Rosie at NMMI. He was always a strong mentor to so many and will be missed. We all give thanks for his service to our country. I give thanks to the Lord for having the opportunity to know him. God bless you all!

Jessie G Luna - February 20, 2011 at 09:58 AM

RJ

“ My condolences to you and your family. Dave was a friend and mentor to me. The life's lessons he taught to students and staff cannot be matched. He will be missed.

Rocky Johnson - February 19, 2011 at 09:55 PM

MS

“ As I was driving today, I remembered the time I could not find Jarryk. He was about 2 years old so this was about 8 years ago. The gate was open and I just assumed he took off. I had no idea where he could have gone. Of course, I feared the worst. Mr. Alexander was out in his Jeep in a heartbeat, driving through the fields, looking for him. It ended with laughs though because Jarryk was inside of Mom's house the entire time. For that simple act, I will forever be grateful.
God bless your family.

Melinda Spivey - February 18, 2011 at 12:20 AM

HJ

“ David Alexander

Henry Ni ('95 HS,'97 JCX) - February 17, 2011 at 10:22 PM

NP

“ 1sg Alexander was a great man. His love of teaching cadets at NMMI was surpassed by the love he had for his family. I owe a lot of who I am today to 1SG Alexander and I thank his family for sharing him with the rest of us.

Noel powell - February 17, 2011 at 10:22 PM