



David Russell Beach

January 31, 1936 - April 19, 2022

David R. Beach, Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army, Retired), completed life's ultimate tour of duty on April 19, 2022. He accepted his final orders with quiet dignity surrounded by family at the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon, OR. He was preceded in death by his high school sweetheart and wife of 43 years, Sunny Lee (Thompson) Beach, of Junction City; his parents Louis M. and Verl Beach of Corvallis; his sister, Carol Beach, of Wenatchee, WA; and his granddaughter, Sarah Boykin, of Lebanon, OR. Left to cherish his memory are his four children: Sandy Strom of Cary, NC; Steve Beach (Diane) of McMinnville, OR; Shelly Boykin (Art) of Lebanon, OR; Stan Beach (Lori) of Adams, OR; six grandchildren: Tom Boykin, Marina and Annette Strom, Maverick, Katie, and Carolyn Beach; three great-grandchildren: James and Sarah Boykin, and Atlas Robertson; sister-in-law, Sue Enquist (Ray); nephews Dale and Wayne Weideman and Jeff and Dan Enquist; and 98-year-old cousin, Leah Gray.

Dave was born on January 31, 1936 in Chicago, IL. He was a 1959 ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Oregon (U of O), where he graduated with honors and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.

Dave was commissioned a Regular Army Officer and served initially in the Infantry in West Germany. He earned a Masters of Arts in International Relations from American University and became a sub-Saharan Africa Foreign Area Officer, as well as a Military Intelligence Officer. LTC Beach particularly enjoyed his assignments to African countries as an American Embassy attaché. His diplomatic service included Vietnam, Zaire (Congo), and Malawi. He put his expertise and love of learning to use teaching courses on the government and politics of Africa with the University of Maryland and New Mexico State University, as well as serving as school board president of the American School of Kinshasa (Zaire). Dave retired in 1979 after 25 years of service grounded in selflessness, discretion, and discipline in keeping his nation's secrets. He received many awards including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with four overseas bars.

Upon his military retirement, Dave earned his Juris Doctorate from the U of O School of Law, passing the Oregon Bar on the first attempt. He embarked on simultaneous "second careers" as

an attorney and gentleman farmer in Junction City, OR, where he lived for 25 years. He is the author of two books, Homegrown Hops and Let's Grow Raspberries. When he moved to Wilsonville, OR, in 2004, he occupied his time in service to others as a docent at the Evergreen Aviation Museum and as a driver for patients of Shriner's Children's Hospital in Portland.

Dave had a curiosity-driven nature. His lifelong pursuit of knowledge was relentless and something to emulate. He enjoyed a diverse array of hobbies including flying, photography, shooting sports, wine and beer making, growing roses and cane berries, household projects, making signature pancakes, and reading, especially National Geographic. He was remarried for a time later in his life and enjoyed traveling the world purely for leisure and educational experiences. Few who met him forgot him or his gregarious, didactic nature and extensive vocabulary. He was an enthusiastic conversationalist known for holding strong opinions and relishing in good verbal sparring – traits he passed on to his offspring, for better and for worse.

Mr. Beach was a Master Mason, Shriner, Sojourner, and Knights Templar. He served as Past Master of the Fraternal Order of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (York Rite), Corvallis Masonic Lodge #14.

The pride he had in his military and other service was matched only by his

great pride in and
love for his family. The Beach family is profoundly grateful for the dignified and
loving care and
community provided by the Oregon Veterans' Home of Lebanon in his final
years. In lieu of
flowers, his memory may be honored by donating to Oregon Veterans' Homes
or the Shriner's
Children's Hospital at 3101 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd., Portland, OR 97239.
He will be laid to
rest on Friday, April 22, 2022 at 2pm with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery, 2245
SW Whiteside Dr.,
Corvallis, OR 97333. Funeral arrangements by McHenry Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR **22**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Oak Lawn Cemetery
2245 SW Whiteside Drive
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 753-4532

Tribute Wall

MA

“ 21 files added to the album *Memory Lane ~ Dave Beach*



Marina - April 29, 2022 at 10:14 PM

TB

“ As a young man I got to help Grandpa around the farm and even acted a "substitute" for him when he went on vacation one time. He tasked me with picking raspberries, keeping weeds at bay, trimming trees, mowing, minding the chickens, and making sure the ice cream didn't go bad. I may or may not have taken a sip of the blackberry liqueur hidden in the cabinet.

Grandpa Dave was an excellent farmer and spent lots of time learning how to get different varieties of food-producing plants to grow on Reveille Farm. So trusting me to act in his stead was a tall order. A few days before he returned from his trip I set about pruning the fruit trees, climbing the branches and lopping off any suckers or branches that were crowding the limbs.

After he got back we went on a walkabout on the property, and he stopped to look at his favorite apple tree. He pointed and asked if I had trimmed it. Proud of my work, I told him I had and asked if it looked alright. Without missing a beat he replied that he had grafted several varieties of different fruits to the tree, a painstaking exercise that takes months and careful care. All of these grafts had fallen victim to my clippers! I had butchered a work of art into a common apple tree, relegating it to a lifetime of standard apple pies instead of the hybrid glory it had been destined for.

Instead of getting mad he explained the process of grafting, and why it was so difficult - even showing me the different tools in the greenhouse and methods of getting grafts to take.

Thank you Grandpa Dave for showing me what a lifetime dedicated to learning is like, and for instilling the hard work ethic and determination in all of us.

Tom Boykin - April 22, 2022 at 10:38 AM