



## Gregory Ransom Rathbun

March 29, 1945 - December 23, 2022

On the morning of December 23, 2022, Greg Rathbun of San Antonio, Texas, passed away. Greg was born in Seattle, Washington, to Maynard and Verna Rathbun in 1945. He graduated from Lake Washington High School in 1963 and earned his bachelor's degree from Western Washington University in 1968.

Greg was a beloved band director in the greater Seattle area for 15 years. He was also commissioned as an officer in the United States Army, where he served with honor for 28 years.

In February 1974, Greg married his beloved wife of 48 years, Peggy. Together, they raised their three wonderful children Michael, Jill, and Marna.

Greg was an avid world traveler and enjoyed taking his family along for the adventure.

Greg is survived by his wife Peggy; their children Michael (Melanie), Jill, and Marna (Kenny); and their grandchildren Hunter, Emma, Brayden, Paige, Morgan, Sara, and Gregory. Greg is also survived by his sister Sheila (Jim) and numerous cherished nieces and nephews.

A viewing will be held on Monday, January 2nd, from 6-8 PM at Mission Park

North, 3401 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio, Texas 78230. Burial and graveside service with full military honors will be held at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas, on Tuesday, January 3rd, at 9:30 AM.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North  
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

## Graveside Service

JAN 3. 9:30 AM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Tribute Wall

“Review your life. Is it not composed of innumerable actions of very little importance? Well, God is quite satisfied with these. They are the share that the soul must take in the work of its perfection.”

— Jean-Pierre de Caussade

*A friend is more to be longed for than the light; I speak of a genuine one. And wonder not: for it were better for us that the sun should be extinguished, than that we should be deprived of friends; better to live in darkness, than to be without friends.*

— St. John Chrysostom

*Gregory Rathbun was and is my favorite uncle. This is our standing joke because he is my only one. My earliest memories include Uncle Greg “walking” me on the ceiling when I was a baby who couldn’t be left in a playpen during family gatherings without loud protests and his playing “Winnie the Pooh” on repeat for me on our family piano while a seven year old skipetty danced on her toes around and around our dining room table. I am composing this remembrance to “You Get What You Give” by New Radicals, which seems to sum up his life in the title.*

*The presents he brought my sister and me blew us away. I can still recall my life-sized doll, Lori, and Rebecca’s MUCH larger-than-life stuffed bear, Prince Goodheart, starring in our playroom theatrical production of Snow White and Rose Red. But the best gift by far was his marrying the “most beautiful of them all” - Aunt Peggy and the resulting gift of our very own cousins - Michael, Jill and Marna. The additions of Kenny and Melanie and all the babies who keep growing up are forever gifts.*

*Being a part of this family is a continual blessing. Material gifts like Uncle Greg and Aunt Peggy taking me to choose a baby crib for our daughter Holly and hosting our son Stephen twenty years later when he was a new recruit at Lackland AFB, offering to host our daughter Holly when she was contemplating a life move from Cali to Texas, and all the road trips in between for weddings and a funeral*

*are just a few examples.*

*I know I am blessed to have such an uncle, one who was present and accessible and as a result plays such a big part in my life story. He has advised about trivial and essential matters. He thought I should marry my boyfriend Joel. 33 years later I concur that was a very good call. He thought I should be more gentle with my kids. He and Aunt Peggy both encouraged me in my desire to teach our own children and said they could see this was a fulfillment of something in my life. They cautioned me to not make it who I was. Even more rare is to share the gift of friendship that connects you more deeply than DNA. Whenever we spoke, whether by phone, email or text, his tone of voice conveyed his love and genuine pleasure to hear from me. I felt so important and cherished by Uncle Greg. Meeting for those precious few times in person in my adult years was the same as when I was a child - he always called out, "Jennifer!!" Aunt Peggy did the same which always brings a smile to my face even thinking of it. Uncle Greg always said my name as if I was the one person in the world he came to see, who he'd been waiting for. I know he made everyone feel this way, but it truly is the gift I cherish most from sharing this part of life with this amazing man, Greg Rathbun.*

*It's been a little too short, this very full life he lived, but I am learning to see that life here is. I can only imagine the shouts of joy when he Walked In on December 23rd to A Place that isn't included on any cruise itinerary in this world. I can only imagine the throng of voices shouting out, "Greg's Here!!!!"*

*"To join two things together there must be nothing between them or there cannot be a perfect fusion. Now realize that this is how God wants our soul to be, without any selfish love of ourselves or of others in between, just as God loves us without anything in between."*

*— St. Catherine of Siena*

*Uncle Greg, I live life now with more intention. I love more*

*unreservedly. I forgive more readily. I still view the little things as potential adventures, but now I suddenly seem to have regained my hope for bigger ones. You still inspire me. Your legacy lives on in the lives of everyone who loves you and had the joy of hearing you say their name. Until I see you again, I am forever one of your "favorite nieces," Jennifer.*

3-30-2023

12-30-2023

*I know I will keep writing this until we Meet Again.*

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**Jennifer O'Driscoll** - January 17, 2024 at 03:16 PM



“*To the Rathbun family, I wish to express my sincere condolences. I worked for Greg at Fifth Army when I was a young Captain. He was so encouraging and supportive. Our two years together became a lifelong friendship. I have many wonderful memories of our time together and know the family does as well. He loved his family with all his heart and I know his passing is a great loss to them. God bless you all with comfort and peace.*”

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**Scott Thomas** - January 12, 2023 at 05:14 PM

KF

“*I'm so sorry for your loss*”

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**Kim Finkbeiner** - January 04, 2023 at 06:26 PM

JO

“ I will forever remember and be gladdened by my Uncle Greg’s big, electric smile. -Joseph

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*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine.*

*Et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

*Fidelium animae, per misericordiam Dei, requiescant in pace.*

*Amen*

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Joseph - January 03, 2023 at 11:39 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gregory Ransom Rathbun.



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January 02, 2023 at 11:20 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gregory Ransom Rathbun.



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December 31, 2022 at 06:01 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gregory Ransom Rathbun.*



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December 30, 2022 at 03:20 PM



“ *He was The best High School Band Director I've ever seen. He made me a special member of The Band. He was very passionate about his band members thru the years. I first met him around 1977. He held a special place in my heart. I will never forget. I haven't seen him, after I graduated from High School in 1979. I will always remember him.*

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**David Crane** - December 29, 2022 at 07:49 PM

AF

“ To the entire Rathbun Family, I send my most sincere condolences. I first met Greg in 2001 when I was stationed at Ft Irwin. I got a message that there was a guy waiting for me at the 'dustbowl' and I needed to go pick him up. I never had any forewarning that I would have a passenger in my four wheeled office (HUMWV) for three days and went to pick him with some reservations. That was the beginning of a friendship that has lasted over 20 years.

Upon finishing my tour at Irwin, I was assigned to the AMEDDC&S Lessons Learned (March 2003) and Greg became my boss but he was much more than a supervisor. He was a friend. He made me smart on systems and doctrine that I had previously been oblivious to and mentored me like a son. He let NCOs take charge; he was always open to suggestions and different opinions.

When my time was done at LL and I moved on to a 1SG position, Greg not only released me from my assignment early, but encouraged the move for my career and kept in touch for years to come.

I am not alone when I say Greg had a positive impact on many people. He had a big heart and shared his enthusiasm with anyone he met. I am going to miss his Facebook post from the deck of ship, sharing the wonders of the world and of course his entire family. I know he loved them all very much.

Greg - you will be dearly missed but not soon forgotten.

Armand

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Armand Fermin - December 29, 2022 at 11:43 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gregory Ransom Rathbun.*



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December 28, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ *I felt so grateful to have been able to "friend" up with Mr. Rathbun after many years (graduating class of '82 from Shoreline). I played French Horn in the band/orchestra and he encouraged me to pick up the bass for the jazz ensemble my sophomore year. His memory of me was of having some talent on the bass, although I know I was a hack! My mother, also a music teacher in the Shoreline School District died a few years ago and I just remember how gifted we were as students to have such influences in our lives in the arts. I live the gifts that he shared every day I pick up one of the instruments that I still play to this day. And in how those rhythms find their way into our lifelong decision making in every discipline. He lives on in the melodies that we continue to play!*

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**Andrew Nelson** - December 28, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Tribute Wall*



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**Andrew Nelson** - December 28, 2022 at 04:27 PM