



## Lonnie Iron Beard

February 4, 1920 - May 8, 2011

### BEARD

Retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Lonnie "Papaw" Beard passed away in his sleep on Sunday May 8, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born February 4, 1920 in Louisville, Mississippi, grew up in Columbus, Mississippi and settled near Sacramento, California in 1961. He had been in San Antonio for the past three years under the care of his daughter Betty and husband Craig Reuter. Lonnie was a three war veteran, serving in WWII, the Korean War, and two tours in Vietnam for a total of 32 years in the Army and Air Force, retiring in 1972. He was involved with the Ben Ali Bedouins Shrine Club in California and served a term as president. Lonnie was one of the founding members and provided long term leadership of Senior Gleaners, an organization tasked with feeding needy seniors and others in the Sacramento area. Then, he was appointed to the board of directors of the California Commission on Aging by three different governors. He was also a member of the Air Force Security Police Association. Lonnie gave of himself to his country, his community and his family. He will be remembered for his tenacity and professionalism at work, his caring and empathy for others in his volunteer work, his wisdom and love when interacting with family, and his care free attitude when he played. He loved to fish and collect gadgets of all sorts. Lonnie was always generous and had a positive attitude when dealing with any issue. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Eloise, who he

married in 1941, his daughter Joyce, and his son Lonnie. He is survived by his daughter Betty and her husband Craig Reuter of San Antonio, daughter Bonita and her husband John Davis of Folsom, California and his son's surviving wife Judy Beard of Citrus Heights, California. He is also survived by grandchildren Dean and Scott Reuter, Joyce, Jennifer and Jason Davis, Amy Hennings, with great grandchildren Robyn Reuter, Marley Davis and Malia Hennings, a cousin Henry "Pump" Beard and nephews Neil, Wayne, Lonnie and Bobby Beard and Eugene Carson, nieces Carol Ann Stafford and Christine Calloway and then grand nephews/niece Jerry Wayne Beard, Todd Glusenkamp, Karen Sullivan and all their extended families. He will be missed by all who knew him. We cannot express our respect and gratitude enough for the wonderful care provided by Hospice Compassus over the past three months and would encourage donations to them in lieu of any gifts or flowers at 4204 Woodcock Dr. San Antonio, TX 78228. Betty and Craig will open their home on Saturday May 14, 2011 from 1pm to 4pm for visitors and a memorial, and similarly, Bonita and John will have a memorial at their home in Folsom on June 4, 2011.

You may sign the on-line guestbook at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) under the obituary section.

MISSION PARK NORTH  
3401 CHERRY RIDGE  
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230  
210 349-1414

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ *Lonnie was a magnifisant man and I am sure that he is extremely busy in the next life. His giving nature inspired me to do many of the things I do with the Veterans at this time. I worked with Lonnie at the Senior Gleaners for 7 years. He brought me into*

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**Steven Hehner** - May 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Lonnie was a wonderful friend of our family for many years, a truly one of a kind fellow and he will be missed. Our love and prayers to all of his family at this difficult time.*

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**Rodney & Beverly Price Families** - May 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *The former Public Relation Department personnel cherish their friendship and partnership with you at Senior Gleaners. As you fade away you will be missed by all. God Bless.*

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**Joe Fraccola** - May 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *Uncle Lonnie was one of the favorite people in my life, especially when I was growing up and being raised by his sister, my grandmother, Dora Beard Stanford. He was always larger than life and lived every day to it's fullest. He was funny, smart, and char*

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**Debra Louise Jonklaas** - May 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Sounds like he was a special guy and you were lucky to have him in your life. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Take care. Les and Audrey

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**Les and Audrey Taylor** - May 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Dear Betty and Craig: We are so sorry for the loss of your beloved Dad. We know you will always have beautiful memories of him.

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**Jack and Yvonne White** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ What a great guy who had such an action-filled life! Also he's a caring, creative guy who worked so that people could be better fed just by increasing real food delivery efficiency. Quite a model guy and a shame for him to move on. I always think about

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**Mark Hunt** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ My love is with you and the family

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**Penny La Fors Tavernier** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ We will all miss Uncle Lonnie so very much. He was such a kind and loving man and always so happy. He truly showed everyone unconditional love. I will cherish every memory with him.

*Love you all,*

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**Karen Sullivan** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WG

“ Lonnie was my favorite person. I really loved him and will miss him dearly. But I still have the wonderful memories of all our good times we had with him, Eloise, Lonnie Jr. and J.D., which I will cherish in my heart forever.

*Love to all the family.*

*Sin*

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**Willie Nell Gazaway** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Lonnie was a very special member of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the Air Force Security Forces Association and he will be missed. Our best to his family.

*Scott Castillo, Chairman*

*Sacramento Valley Chapter, AFSFA*

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**Scott Castillo** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

OS

“ Lonnie, you were loved by all, and we in Rancho will miss you. You were known for your great friendship and good humor. May God keep you in His bosom. Love you.

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**Orlando Salazar Sal** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Dear Family,

*SMSgt Lonnie "Big Daddy" Beard was a legend in the legions of Air Police, Security Police and Security Forces in the Air Force. While I did not have the honor of serving with him, I know of his many accomplishments, care and concerns for h*

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**Colonel Ed Johnson, USAF ret** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ I will miss my Grandpa. RIP Grandpa...we love you.

Amy Hennings - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I dearly loved and cherished my sweet Father-in-Law. He was an amazing generous man who proudly served his country during WWII, the Korean War and Viet Nam. Dad was a proud and happy man who loved his family and life. He was a master gardner whose orch

Judy Beard - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Betty, Craig and Family, our hearts go out to you. As you know your dad big daddy and I have been friends since 1959. We met in Germany. Initially he was my supervisor, also a great mentor and we became great friends. I know he will be missed greatly by

Don Danielson - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ Lonnie was unique and always had a smile and good word. As a fellow air and security policeman, I know many will miss him as he looks down on us from Heaven.

Nick Keck - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Betty & Craig,

*Susan and I know how much you loved and cared for Lonnie/Papaw and because of that you will miss him very much. You both are such wonderful, loving people and we know that Lonnie lived the last 3 years of his life in your careful*

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**Doug Craig** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ *Thinking of you in your loss. He was our last uncle and his visits will be missed by all of us in Mississippi.*

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**Neil and Gracie Beard** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Dear Betty and Craig,*

*We're so sorry to hear of your father's passing. We know from every mention of him over the years how much he was loved and admired by your entire family. We wish you peace and comfort at this difficult time.*

*Love,  
Roger and Stell*

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**Roger & Stella Craig** - May 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *Your spirit and your smile always brightened my day. I can still hear you say "hey bud"*

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**Lee Ann Glusenkamp** - May 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ We will all miss our Lonnie, we always had such a great time with him and, all of his family. Lonnie ment so much to us. We will always hold him dear in our hears. A great man,uncle, and friend.

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**Bob & Cherie Gazaway** - May 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Uncle Lonnie was a great man. I will miss him very much. Love,  
Carol Anne

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**Carol Anne** - May 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM