



Robert Alvie Alvarez

June 30, 1947 - April 19, 2025

Robert Alvarez

"Alvie"

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Alvie Alvarez, a quiet and humble man whose strength of character left an indelible mark on all who knew him, passed away on April 19, 2025 at the age of 77.

From an early age, Alvie's natural leadership and genuine kindness set him apart. As captain of the Highlands High School football team, he led his teammates to within two games of a state championship - not through loud commands, but with a steady hand, encouragement, and the rare gift of making every person feel like they were his closest friend and fiercest supporter. On and off the field, he built confidence in others and left a legacy of loyalty and inspiration among his peers.

Alvie earned a full athletic scholarship to Texas State University, where he continued to display his dedication and perseverance. Yet, as the war in Vietnam intensified, Alvie could not ignore the call he felt to serve. After deep reflection, he made the selfless decision to leave college and enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

Following rigorous basic and advanced training, Alvie was deployed overseas. His innate leadership once again emerged, this time on the battlefield, where he helped fellow Marines trust their instincts, survive the harsh realities of war,

and ultimately return home to their families. Alvie served two distinguished tours in Vietnam as a helicopter crew chief and gunner. His bravery and selflessness in the face of danger earned him numerous commendations, including the prestigious Silver Star for battlefield heroism.

After his military service, he became a certified building contractor in Washington D.C. where he restored numerous historic buildings and built new homes. He also received a BBA from Virginia University and played on the Washington Redskins Practice team.

In the 90's, he moved back to San Antonio to care for his aging parents. This is where he reconnected with the love of his life, Gayle Lehde, whom he married in 2019.

Alvie's life was defined by service — to his teammates, his friends, his fellow soldiers, and his country. He will be remembered for his steadfast spirit, his unwavering kindness, and the countless lives he touched along the way.

He is survived by his wife Gayle Lehde Alvarez, his children Hope Cowger and Alena Haworth, his brothers Roy Alvarez, Roger Alvarez, his niece Cleste Alvarez Thomas and many beloved friends and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his son, Tory Alvarez, and his parents Mary and Hilary Alvarez. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Viewing and Funeral Services will be on May 7, 2025 at:

Alamo Funeral Home

624 N Alamo St.

San Antonio, Texas 78215

Viewing: 10:00 – 12:00

Services: 12:00 – 1:00

Burial: 1:30 – 1:50 Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery

Cemetery Details

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Alamo Funeral Chapels
624 N Alamo St
San Antonio, TX 78215
(210) 554-5000
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 7. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Alamo Funeral Chapels
624 N Alamo St
San Antonio, TX 78215
(210) 554-5000
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Committal Service

MAY 7. 1:30 PM - 1:50 PM (CT)

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 820-3891

Tribute Wall

GE

“ I played on the high school team with Robert that went to the State semi finals in 1964. He was a very good and quiet man even then. He was our leader even though we were beaten 58-0. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Greg A Ekis - September 27, 2025 at 04:24 PM

CB

“ I never had the privilege of getting to know "Alvie" that well and that for sure is a true loss, because I admired him and his many accomplishments. We all, as classmates, looked up to him. Gayle, his family I am so so for your loss. He was one of a kind. May he rest in peace.

Carol Bocchetti - May 05, 2025 at 11:45 PM

MF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marilyn Fizer - May 03, 2025 at 04:40 PM

MF

This is a photo from our 1964 yearbook when Robert was a Junior at Highlands High School where we loved to call him "Alvie". It is displayed on the "H Club" page which shows varsity players who received a letterman's jacket that year.

Marilyn Fizer - May 03, 2025 at 08:51 PM

JH

“ In life, if you're lucky, you get to know a few special people. Robert was one of those people for me. He provided a quiet strength that set the winning tone for our football team in his time as quarterback. I was fortunate to play with him and count him as a friend. RIP. Jake Henshaw

Jake Henshaw - May 02, 2025 at 02:01 PM

LF

“ Robert you were always a much respected team mate and friend on the HHS 64 Owls. We knew you had the talent and, strength and complete knowledge of the game. I always looked forward to visiting with you at the reunions. You are a special friend and will be missed. Larry Fizer

Larry Fizer - April 30, 2025 at 09:33 PM

MF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marilyn Fizer - April 30, 2025 at 05:52 PM

MF

San Antonio Express & News, Sept. 18, 1964 - This is how we remember our quarterback! We saw Robert's picture in our local newspaper many times during football season. As Coach Wyble said, "Robert Alvarez and James Armstrong were guiding lights" on our talented, winning football team.

Marilyn Fizer - April 30, 2025 at 05:57 PM

DC

“ It was My Honor to have been a classmate and teammate with ALVIE at Highlands High School in the class of 1965. ALVIE was a true Leader, Warrior and Winner. I am thankful for ALVIE. He will never be forgotten.
REST PEACEFULLY !!

Don Corson - April 30, 2025 at 02:09 PM

JE

“ I truly admired Alvie's bravery, heroism and love of country. He had a more difficult path than many of us, but he never complained. He loved Gayle, his brothers and his family. He helped them through difficult times when others never knew. He was a strong man right to the end. I will always remember his strong character, honesty, love and friendship. May he forever rest in peace.



JD English - April 30, 2025 at 12:25 PM

DC

AMEN... JD
It was My Honor to have been a classmate and teammate with ALVIE at Highlands High School in the class of 1965. ALVIE was a true Leader, Warrior and Winner. I am thankful for ALVIE. He will never be forgotten.
REST PEACEFULLY !!

Don Corson - April 30, 2025 at 01:44 PM

LF

Robert you were always a much respected team mate and friend on the HHS 64 Owls. We knew you had the talent and, strength and complete knowledge of the game. I always looked forward to visiting with you at the reunions. You are a special friend and will be missed.
Larry Fizer

Larry Fizer - April 30, 2025 at 05:34 PM

JH

In life, if you're lucky, you get to know a few special people. Robert was one of those people for me. He provided a quiet strength that set the winning tone for our football team in his time as quarterback. I was fortunate to play with him and count him as a friend. RIP. Jake Henshaw

Jake Henshaw - May 02, 2025 at 01:06 AM

CB

I never had the privilege of getting to know "Alvie" that well and that for sure is a true loss, because I admired him and his many accomplishments. We all, as classmates, looked up to him. Gayle, his family I am so so for your loss. He was one of a kind. May he rest in peace.

Carol Bocchetti - May 04, 2025 at 11:47 AM