



Robert Bradford "RB" Anderson Jr.

December 6, 1947 - April 24, 2017

Robert Bradford "RB" Anderson, Jr. died April 24, 2017, after a brief illness. He was a resident of both Bland, VA and Shackelfords, VA. RB was born December 6, 1947, and was preceded in death by his parents, Robert B. Anderson and Margaret Funk Anderson.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Beavers Anderson of Bland and Shackelfords, VA; two sons and daughters-in-law, Rath and Michelle of Bland, VA, and Dane and Mandy of Montpelier, VA; five beautiful granddaughters, Virginia (Ginny), Aeryie Grey, Rill, Juliet and Isadora; a brother, Chuck Anderson of Virginia Beach; a sister, Peg Monahan of Williamsburg; and also a very special niece, Melanie Batholomay, and her children, Veronica, Heidi and Rex, of Knoxville, TN.

RB enlisted in the US Army in June, 1967 and volunteered to serve two tours in Vietnam, the first as an E-5 Squad Leader in Charlie Company C-75 Rangers; the second as the door gunner on extraction missions. He returned to graduate from Marshall University to be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He received a M.Ed. From Virginia Tech, and served as an ROTC instructor and led the Ranger program there. He was Airborne (Jump Master), Ranger and Special Forces; serving throughout the Middle-East and Asia, including Operation Desert Storm. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1991.

After military retirement, RB's second career was in education. He taught JROTC at Hopewell and Carroll County High Schools, was a counselor at Wilderness Leadership Academy, and also served as principal of The

Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands.

RB's third career was a calling to be a prison chaplain, serving first at River North Correctional Center in Grayson County; and then Bland Correctional Center, near his home.

Throughout all of his various careers, RB was also a passionate farmer, who always believed in sustainable agriculture.

He passed with grace and the assurance that his faith sustained him. A light to many, he "Leads the Way".

Graveside rites will be held 11 a.m., Friday, April 28th at Shackelford's Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Shackelfords Chapel, 3727 Buena Vista Road, Shackelfords, VA 23156 following the service. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation payable to the "USO", USO Department WS, P.O. Box 96860 Washington, DC 20090-6860.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, West Point Chapel
417 11th St
West Point, VA 23181
(804) 843-2550

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I worked with RB at the Wilderness Leadership Academy in Arcadia. He shared with me the story of how he was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for taking part in saving a helicopter crew that was shot down in Vietnam. He shared many stories about his time in the service and growing up....amazing guy.

Jeffrey L Maynard - July 28, 2022 at 11:34 PM



“ LTC Anderson was a friend when I was in a dark place. RB allowed me and my family a “no charge” vacation at a property he owned that blessed me greatly. I was struggling with forgiveness of someone near to me who had caused me great pain and some harm. He stressed the need for me to forgive for both my benefit, my family and the individual who had harmed me. God Bless RB Anderson! — A true friend and colleague.

Loren Widrick - July 08, 2021 at 01:00 PM

JA

“ LTC Anderson was my JROTC SAI at Hopewell High School in the 90's. I just happened into Bland today and was looking him up, finding this was a shock...he was a great man and one of the very few people i ever wanted to BE. Rest easy sir, you watch is over...

Until Valhalla

*Brave Rifles
Jason C.*

Jason - June 06, 2021 at 10:22 PM

SP

“ He was a giant among men, larger than life. He earned your respect through action, not just by virtue of his rank. RB walked the walk and always led by example. He remains the epitome of a mentor and inspiring leader. He could ice you with a cold stare or his stern voice and make you feel ten feet tall when you drew a smile or a deep laugh out of him. God bless you, Sir, and thank you for being such an amazing role model in my life and in the lives of so many of my fellow VT cadets. Debi, thank you for sharing him with us and for supporting his sacrifices fighting for our nation. May God comfort you and family.

Scott Pearl, Lt Col, USAF (Retired)
VTCC Class of '84

Scott Pearl - May 26, 2017 at 11:31 AM

BD

“ It was a good day in my life when I bumped in to this very polite American in the corridors of Kingussie High School in Scotland. Debbie had come to teach in our school and brought RB with her. Our families grew close and he became a very good friend to my son. He will be sadly missed. All of the Anderson clan is in our thoughts.

The Dzienniks

Brian Dziennik - May 13, 2017 at 07:25 PM


Michael
Buckley

“ *RB Anderson and Sergeant Major Villarreal were instrumental in getting me prepared for Ranger School in the summer of 1980 (between my junior and senior years at Virginia Tech). Captain Anderson, as I will always remember him, was the only person I ever truly looked up to as a "mentor," and I will never forget what he did for me while I was in the Corps. I wish I could have been able to pay my respects to his wife and family.*



Michael Buckley - May 10, 2017 at 10:50 AM

TT

“ *My life was touched by LTC Anderson as a young Army ROTC cadet while at Virginia Tech in the early 1980's. Then Captain Anderson inspired us to truly be all that we could be, he would not accept any less from us. I have carried the lessons in leadership that he taught us all through out my career until my retirement last year. Aside from the military leadership, he taught us about living a life of strong moral character. I know from talking to my classmates that he touched many of our lives in a very special way. We are all better for having known him, and he will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. We will never forget him.*

*God Bless,
Tom Trotto*

Tom Trotto - May 09, 2017 at 12:34 PM

DB

“ We were so blessed to have had LTC R.B. Anderson serve the students of Carroll County High School as the ROTC instructor. He was a great instructor, role model and inspiration to both the students and staff of Carroll County. He will be sadly missed.

God speed Colonel,
Mark and Dana Burnette

Dana Burnette - May 04, 2017 at 06:44 PM

DD

“ I met RB and his lovely wife Debbie in the Panama Canal Zone in September of 1975, we became great friends. A zillion wonderful stories and times spent at their house overlooking the bay of Panama. RB taught me how to be a better soldier and leader. He had a special gift, a smile, a contagious laugh and I will miss him. There was a special bond with the Lieutenants and RB was the glue. We all looked to RB for guidance and encouragement. He had a positive affect on everyone he touched. I know the world was a better place with him in it and I a better man for knowing RB.
Dickie Decker

Dick Decker - May 04, 2017 at 06:03 PM

CM

“ *Many years ago, as a young Infantry Lieutenant in Panama, I was introduced to another Lieutenant who seemed different than the rest of us. His maturity, bearing, knowledge of the profession of arms and service-above-self made the rest of us pale in comparison. He was not just "another Lieutenant." He was RB Anderson. The guy you wanted to be like, to run with and more importantly, not let down. I stayed in uniform for 30 years and never lost sight of the fact that if your Soldiers want to one day be like you, you're a good leader.*

RB, I hope I measured up. Rangers Lead the Way!

Chip Martin

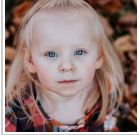
Chip Martin - May 04, 2017 at 02:34 PM

BS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



butch spurlin - April 30, 2017 at 12:05 PM



“ LTC Anderson was a father figure too many people in his life. My time spent with him was some of the greatest times of my life. He was a true southern gentleman. He is the main reason I say "sir and ma'am" to everyone I meet young or older. He taught me soo many things in the time i was with him in CCHS JROTC; but most of all was to never use the word can't. Because giving up was not an option. He proved to everyone he was around that nothing is impossible if you set your mind to it. For those things im eternally grateful to this great hero. To mumma "which he called his wonderful wife and had us call her" I'm so deeply sorry you lost this wonder man. Just know he deeply touched soo many lives with his time on this earth and he will be watching over everyone of us for the rest of our lives. And finally to RB thank you for making me and many others a better person for knowing you.

Joshua Edwards - April 28, 2017 at 11:41 PM

KR

“ I was a teacher at the Minnick School in Wytheville, VA where RB was principal. I had much respect for him and he was the best principal I have worked for. I regret that we didn't stay in touch after we both left Minnick. I do offer my condolences to his family. He was an amazing man. -Kim Pack-Ratliff

Kim Ratliff - April 27, 2017 at 09:24 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



bruce - April 27, 2017 at 03:04 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



bruce - April 27, 2017 at 03:01 PM

BR

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bruce - April 27, 2017 at 02:56 PM

BR

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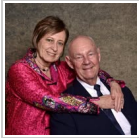
bruce - April 27, 2017 at 02:41 PM

BR

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bruce - April 27, 2017 at 02:39 PM



“ *A few years ago, a mutual friend invited me to have lunch with the man she bought her beef from. When I arrived at the restaurant I parked my truck next to his and I was blown away. So I took a picture of our trucks sitting side by side. His with a decal of C company, 75th ranger regiment, mine with a decal of L company. We quickly realized that we shared not only that history, but also our mutual love of Jesus and heart to serve Him, R. B. In prison ministry and I in mission to Bulgaria. We were brothers in two profound ways and, of course, became instant friends. I will miss our times of sharing until we meet again. Thank you for your service to your country and to our God. Thank you for your influence and positive impact on so many. Once again, Rangers Lead the Way!*

Bob Bruton - April 27, 2017 at 06:38 AM

JO

“ As a junior at Hopewell High School I met a true American Hero. I was blessed to be around him for 2 years but his impact has lasted throughout my life. He was one of the first to encourage me to serve in the military. Last year I discovered he was serving as a prison chaplain and we reconnected via email. He thanked me for serving. Yes, this Special Forces, Airborne Ranger thanked me...

I discovered just a few weeks ago that he was ill, and reached out to let him know he would be in my prayers. I will cherish his response and kind words of encouragement in my own life and ministry.

This morning I read the news that this American Hero and Champion for Christ had left this world for his eternal reward. My heart skipped and my eyes welled up a bit. I can only imagine the grief of family and those who knew him better. Yet what I know, is I am a better man today for have ever crossed paths with LTC Anderson.

May God comfort all family and those who grieve today.

Jon Osmundson - April 27, 2017 at 06:02 AM

AC

“ I had the honor to know RB as a fellow JROTC instructor when he was at Hopewell HS. We made the effort for the cadets to compete in events and spent several JROTC summer camps at Ft Eustis working together. Upon our initial meeting in JROTC, we realized we had attended the same Infantry Officer Advanced Course at Fort Benning GA in 1979-80. RB was a true professional soldier and was always willing to go out of his way to help, and mentor to others. We will all miss his easy going style and ability to be a genuine friend to all. Rest in Peace RB.

LTC (Ret) Al Chandler, Senior Army Instr. Prince George HS, VA

Alvin & Carolyn Chandler - April 26, 2017 at 10:15 PM

RH

“ We will see RB at every turn on the winding mountain road, as we had so many times in the past. He was a remarkable person and will never be forgotten.

Ray and Lottie Hotaling, Bland, VA

Ray Hotaling - April 26, 2017 at 05:16 PM

LK

“ Lonnie & Joyce Keene lit a candle in memory of Robert Bradford "RB" Anderson Jr.



Lonnie & Joyce keene - April 26, 2017 at 04:41 PM

Kevin
N
Samantha
Richardson

“ RB will be missed by his Trinity UMC family and me personally. He affectionately called me his coach, but I believe I learned more from him than he did I. - Pastor Kevin Trinity UMC

Kevin N Samantha Richardson - April 26, 2017 at 01:48 PM

OS

“ Condolences to the family, I knew Mr. Anderson from RNCC, he was a very kind, very respectful man. Thank you for all you have done for us here, and for serving our country!
Officer J. Stidham

Officer J. Stidham - April 26, 2017 at 11:06 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Bradford "RB" Anderson Jr..*



April 26, 2017 at 10:48 AM



“ *In the short time I got to know you, I were blessed with your love for life, your positive attitude, and your witness. I will miss you greatly.*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

"Coach" Charlie Bryant

SEMPER FI!

Charles A Bryant - April 26, 2017 at 08:05 AM

JS

“ Words can not begin to tell you how sorry I am that this great man, father, husband,, grandfather and friend to so people and the lives he touched along the way. has reached the other side. He was always so kind and funny when I baby sit his children and I could not wait for the Christmas Letter each year to see what he had been up to on the farm in Whackertown. Each of you are in my thoughts and prayers . Rath and Dane I know how it is to loose a great person you called your dad I lost mine a few weeks ago and there is no words to make it easier except RB was a man of great faith.and he lived life to the fullest and doted on his children and grandchildren as well as his wonderful wife Debi. Debi if you ever need anything please do not hesitate to let me know. You and your family have always been very dear to my heart. May God comfort and give you strength to each of you in the days ahead and cherish all the memories that RB shared with each of you/ God bless and with love you have my prayers and thoughts Juanita Shields Marion VA

Juanita Shields - April 26, 2017 at 06:56 AM

OC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. RB was a wonderful man and a hero to many. Thoughts and prayers for Debi, Rath, Dane, and all of your family.

OJ Caprio - April 25, 2017 at 10:49 PM

LS

“ Mr. Anderson was a real asset to River North Correctional Center to both the inmates and the staff. He gave it his all. It was so good to see him March 18 @ the Cystic Fibrosis auction. I didn't have a clue he was so sick. He will be greatly missed. God bless him and his family... Rest in peace.

Lora Shumate - April 25, 2017 at 09:02 PM

DM

“ I worked with RB for a few months and have never met a kinder, more courteous and generous man. He was truly one of a kind. I have no doubt that Heaven is a little brighter now. My sympathy and compassion to his entire family and especially his Debbie who he dearly loved. May the Lord be with the family now and the upcoming days and months. God bless you all.

Debra Sanders McKinnon - April 25, 2017 at 07:13 PM



“ Chaplain Anderson was a kind, generous, and brave man who shared his knowledge and faith freely and with passion. The world has lost a true gentleman warrior.

Thresea Dowell

Thresea Dowell - April 25, 2017 at 05:42 PM

DS

“ Sir,
You taught me so much about being a leader and an adult. You helped create who I am, the person I became. I have and will always look up to you. From the very start of my jrotc career, you believed in me. You helped me overcome so much. I will never forget you. And your family is in my thoughts always.




RIP ltc anderson

Daniel W. Sexton - April 25, 2017 at 03:31 PM

LL

“ I have only known RB for just over a year but from the moment I met him I felt as if I had known him my whole life. He had a way about him that you just felt at ease and as you were all family. He touched my life and my heart in ways that he will never know. The river will not be the same without seeing him running around and that ever smiling face! He will be missed more than words can express.

Lindsay Alison Loranger - April 25, 2017 at 02:20 PM


Kasaunda
Fuller

“ You were a great man. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. You were also a great instructor, many learned a lot of wisdom from you. RIP.

Kasaunda Fuller - April 25, 2017 at 01:02 PM

PH

“ Don't wear out all of the angels up there too bad with your crazy P.T., Col. I will never forget you or all the things you did for me. No one has ever inspired me as much as you. You always had faith in me and never gave up on me. You never gave up on me. It was an honor to be in your JROTC program and to work with you at River North. You will be greatly missed.

"Little Sister"
Presley Hicks

Presley Hicks - April 25, 2017 at 12:45 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Robert Bradford "RB" Anderson Jr..*

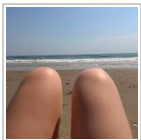


April 25, 2017 at 12:38 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Anderson's passing. Prayers for you in this difficult time.*

Leslie Anerton Godsey - April 25, 2017 at 11:39 AM



“ *Sir,
You taught me so much about being a leader and an adult. You helped create who I am, the person I became. I have and will always look up to you. From the very start of my jrotc career, you believed in me. You helped me overcome so much. I will never forget you. And your family is in my thoughts always.*

RIP ltc anderson

Vici Ann - April 25, 2017 at 11:30 AM



“ *The Anderson family is in our thoughts and prayers. RB was a wonderful person and will be missed by many people in Bland County. May God Bless you now and in the coming days!*

*Love you,
Stephen and Sandra Kelley*

Sandra Kelley - April 24, 2017 at 07:35 PM