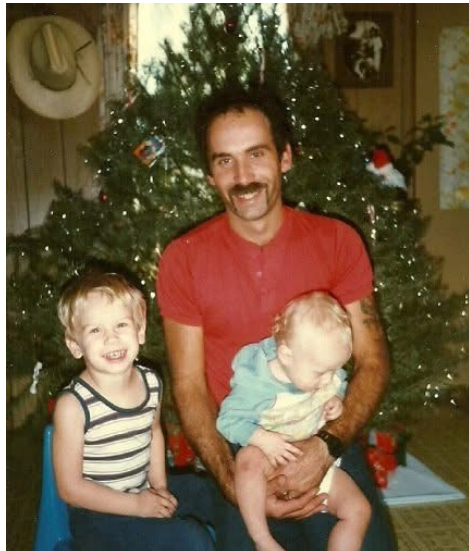
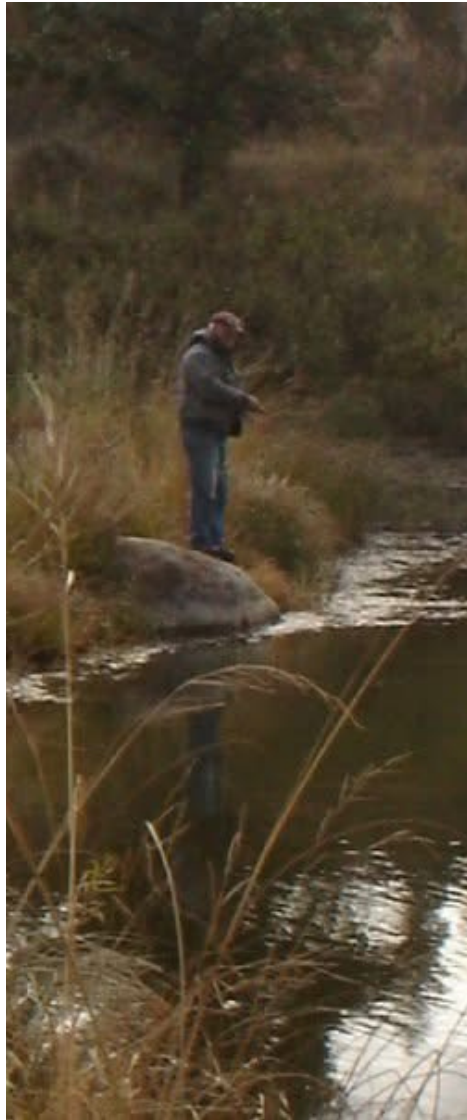
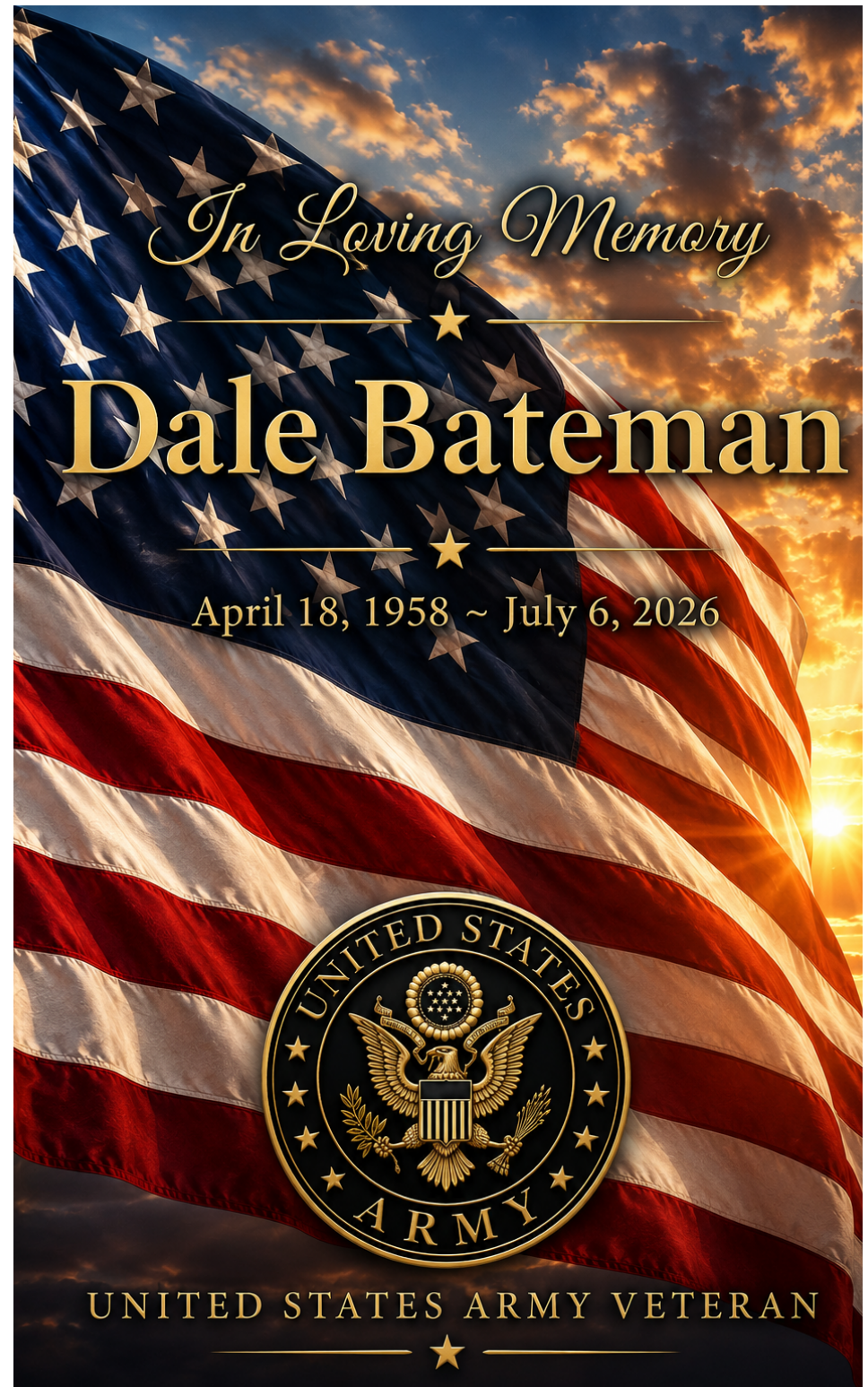


***“When I die, remember that what you knew of me is with you always. What is buried is only the shell of what was. Do not regret the shell, but remember the man. Remember the father.”***

*- Louis L'Amour*



**Scan the QR Code to watch  
Dale's Celebration of  
Life Tribute Video**





Dale Robert Bateman, 68, of New Salem, North Dakota, passed away unexpectedly from a brief illness at his home on July 6, 2026.

Dale was born on April 18, 1958, in California. During his early childhood, he entered foster care with his sister, Dawn. At the age of three, they were lovingly welcomed into the home of Robert and Jeanette Bateman, who later adopted them. Their love, guidance, and unwavering support provided the foundation upon which Dale built his life. In later years, Dale appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with members of his biological family while remaining forever grateful for the family who raised him.

As a young man, Dale proudly answered the call to serve his country in the United States Army. He served as an Airborne infantryman stationed in Alaska. The discipline, resilience, and quiet confidence he developed during his military service remained with him throughout his life, shaping the husband, father, grandfather, outdoorsman, and friend he became.

Following his military service, Dale worked in the oil industry as a seismograph crew member throughout Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. While living in Colorado, he met Jayne (Allen). Together they welcomed two sons, Travis and Ty, beginning the family that would become the center of Dale's life.

After their divorce in 1991, Dale returned to his hometown of New Salem, North Dakota, determined to provide a stable home for his boys. As a devoted single father, he embraced the responsibility of raising Travis and Ty with unwavering love, sacrifice, and guidance. He worked as Head Custodian for the New Salem-Almont School before work for a tree-trimming business. Later, he spent many years hauling milk throughout North Dakota and South Dakota, earning a reputation as a dependable, hardworking man who took great pride in an honest day's work.

Dale possessed an endless curiosity about the world. He loved history, politics, current events, and could carry on a conversation with just about anyone. Friends and family knew that if they stopped by for a quick visit, they should plan on staying awhile. Every story naturally led to another, and somehow time seemed to stand still when Dale got talking. Whether sharing stories from his younger years, reminiscing about his Army service, recounting hunting adventures, discussing the latest news, or reflecting on family memories, he had a remarkable ability to make every conversation meaningful.

The outdoors was where Dale felt most at home. He was an avid hunter and fisherman who cherished the changing seasons and the quiet beauty of North Dakota. Deer season, coyote hunting, and long days afield were never simply about the harvest. They were opportunities to explore, teach, observe, and spend meaningful time outdoors with those he loved. Through those experiences, he quietly passed along lessons of patience, awareness, self-reliance, perseverance, and respect for nature to his boys. Those lessons remained with them long after the hunts ended and continue to influence their lives today.

Beyond the outdoors, Dale enjoyed cooking, reading—especially the novels of Louis L'Amour—woodworking, gardening, working with his hands, and continually improving and caring for his home. He found satisfaction in building, repairing, and creating, always taking pride in a job well done. Conversation, of course, was always included at no extra charge—other than the extra time you hadn't planned on spending.

In later years, Dale faced significant health challenges. Complications from COVID-19, a mini-stroke, and multiple hip replacement surgeries greatly affected his health and mobility. Despite those hardships, his determination, sense of humor, and love for his family and friends never wavered.

Perhaps no title meant more to Dale than "Papa Dale." He loved his grandchildren beyond measure, and they always held a special place in his heart. Whether he was teasing them with his quick wit, sharing stories from years gone by, teaching them

something new, or simply enjoying their company, those moments were among the greatest joys of his life.

Dale was the kind of man who would give you the shirt off his back without hesitation. If someone needed help, he was there. Those who accepted his help also knew it usually came with a conversation that lasted a little—or a lot—longer than expected. Dale could strike up a conversation with anyone, anywhere, about nearly anything. His kind spirit, generous heart, genuine interest in others, and gift for storytelling left lasting impressions on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

He is survived by his sons, Travis Bateman and Ty Bateman (Emma); his cherished grandchildren, Bridger, Gunnar, Emmarie, and Sage; his brother, Rocky Bateman (Nancy Jo); his half-brother, Monty Mertz; sister Peggy (Gerald) Sprenger, nieces Kimberly (Kent), Jesse (John), Ashley (Kyle), Libby, Elizabeth, and Marisa; nephews Jared (Katina) and Christopher; great-niece Olivia; great-nephews Jace, Tomas and Mateo. His lifelong friend, Leland Wetzel; dear friend Kevin Will and many others from his years hauling milk; Tracy Cofer, whose friendship and kindness meant so much to Dale and are deeply appreciated by the family; along with many extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his adoptive parents, Robert and Jeanette Bateman; his sister, Dawn Bustos; and other loved ones who welcomed him home.

A funeral service celebrating Dale's life will be held 12:30 PM Friday, July 10, 2026, at the Crosswinds Church of the Nazarene in New Salem, ND. Burial with military honors will follow at 2:00 PM Friday at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery near Mandan. A memorial fund in Dale's honor has been established at Capital Credit Union to benefit his grandchildren.

Dale leaves behind a legacy of service, patriotism, resilience, generosity, and unconditional love for his family. His stories will continue to be shared around kitchen tables, hunting trips, beside a favorite fishing hole, and wherever family and friends gather to remember a man who never met a stranger. Though he will be deeply missed, the lessons he taught, the laughter he shared, and the love he gave will continue to live on through all whose lives he touched.

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*Funeral Service for*  
**Dale Bateman**

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*Opening Song*

*Scripture Reading*

*Prayer*

*Congregational Sharing*

*Song*

*Pastoral Sharing*

*Prayer*

**Burial Service**



2:00 PM; North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery  
Mandan, ND