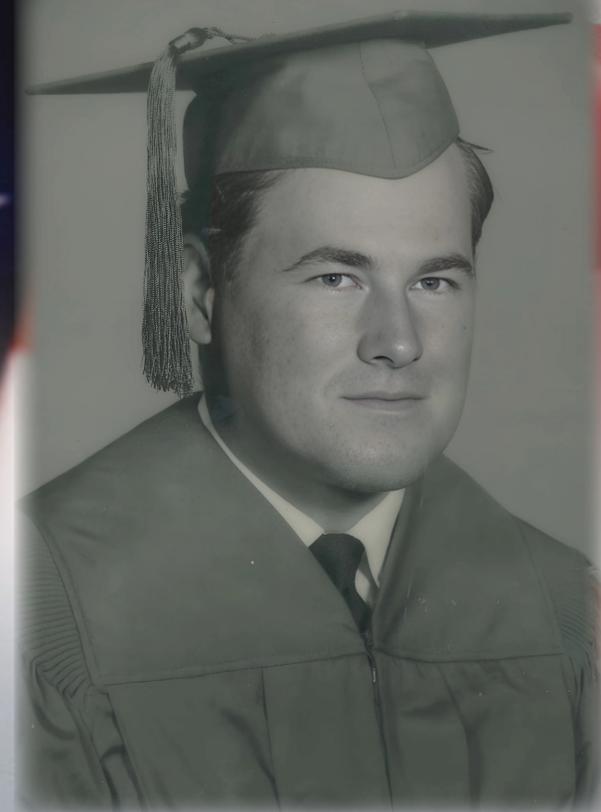


*Footprints*

*One night a man had a dream.  
In it he was walking along a beach with the Lord.  
Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.  
For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.  
When the final scene of his life flashed before him,  
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
He noticed many times along the path of his life  
there was only one set of footprints,  
and realized that they came at the hardest and  
saddest times of his life.  
Bothered about this, he questioned the Lord, saying,  
"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,  
you'd walk with me all the way.  
But I have noticed that during the most burdensome  
times in my life, there is only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why when I needed you  
the most you would leave me."  
The Lord replied, "My dear child, I love you,  
and I would never leave you.  
During the times of trial and suffering,  
when you see only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you."*



IN LOVING MEMORY OF



GARY DALE BEARDEN

1944 - 2025

Gary Dale Bearden, 80, of Altus, Oklahoma passed away peacefully on January 22, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Gary was born in Hobart, Oklahoma on December 5, 1944, to Leonard Arthur Bearden and Francis Lorene (Woods) Bearden. He was a graduate of Altus High School Class of 1965.

Gary married Lovetta Kelly on July 3, 1967, in Vernon, Texas. They spent 50 years together before her passing in 2017. Through their union they raised two children, Gary Bearden, Jr. and Patricia (Bearden) Cain. He served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard retiring in June of 1992 as a Sergeant. He served as a custodian for 29 years at Altus Public Schools prior to his retirement in 2008. He loved watching Oklahoma Sooners football, John Wayne movies, and most of all he loved spending time with his family.

Gary is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lovetta; parents, Leonard and Francis Bearden; brother, Arthur Bearden; and sister, Dequita Hasty. Left to honor his memory are his children, Gary Bearden, Jr. and Patricia Cain, and husband, Travis; Gary Jr's. children, Brittany, Alexander, Samuel, Hailey, Hannah, Madison; Patricia's children, Christopher, and wife Bailey, Ashley, Emily; Patricia's grandchildren, Jensen and Harper; and aunt, Marie Tinney.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

# GARY DALE BEARDEN

**DATE OF BIRTH**  
DECEMBER 5, 1944  
HOBART, OKLAHOMA

**DATE OF DEATH**  
JANUARY 22, 2025  
LAWTON, OKLAHOMA

## FUNERAL SERVICE

1:00 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025  
KINCANNON MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
ALTUS, OKLAHOMA

## BURIAL

RESTLAWN MEMORIAL PARK  
ALTUS, OKLAHOMA

## MILITARY HONORS

UNITED STATES ARMY

