



LTC (RET) Bartholomew Daniel O'Leary

January 17, 1943 - April 29, 2024

Bartholomew Daniel O'Leary, born on January 17, 1943, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2024. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. Bart grew up in a household steeped in service and dedication, with his father working at the Naval Shipyard and serving in WWII, and his mother, a former IRS employee, raising six children.

Bart's early education at Saint Patrick's Academy set the stage for a life of discipline and commitment to faith. His siblings, his late sister Trisha (Gary), Tom, Michael (Jane), Maureen, and Kathleen (Jim), shared in the adventures and trials of a bustling family life.

Bart's profound sense of duty led him to enlist in the Army in 1966 as an Intelligence Analyst and received the opportunity to commission in 1966. He served with distinction in various units, including the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division. His valor in combat was recognized with numerous awards: a Silver Star, 2 Bronze Star Medals with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, Purple Heart with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars with Arrowhead Device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with

Palm, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge with 1 Bronze Service Star, Air Assault Badge and British Parachutist Badge. The Battle of Dak To, the fight to take Hill 875, was a defining moment in his military career, where he demonstrated extraordinary bravery and leadership. A moment he humbly refers to as being in “the right place at the wrong time”.

After retiring from the military in 1989, Bart, alongside his wife Ellen, an Army veteran, and their son Matthew, also an Army veteran, settled into civilian life. He was involved with the Jacksonville Area Golf Association for many years. He spent 30 years volunteering with The Society of St. Vincent de Paul where he found great joy.

Bart’s personal life was enriched by his marriage to Ellen, whom he met during his recovery at Valley Forge Army General Hospital. Their bond was one of mutual respect and shared experiences, leading to a loving family with their son Matthew, daughter-in-law Kelli, and cherished grandsons Nicolas and Tyler.

Bart’s enthusiasm for life was evident in his love for golf, playing regularly with his son, and his unwavering support for the Jacksonville Jaguars. His legacy is not only in his military and community service but also in the strength and love of his family.

Bart’s life journey reflects a man who lived with honor, courage, and a profound sense of duty. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, leaving behind a legacy of service and love that will forever illuminate the hearts of his family and community. Until Valhalla, his spirit marches on, embodying the warrior’s journey to eternal honor and peace.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in St. Augustine. A burial with full military honors bestowed by the United States Army will be at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make memorial contributions to St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Augustine Council 282 San Marco Ave. St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904-217-8097).

Those desiring may leave messages of sympathy and encouragement on his tribute page: www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Jacksonville National Cemetery

4083 Lannie Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 766-5222

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home
385 SR 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-1625
<https://www.stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Mass

MAY 9. 9:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel
5950 State Road 16
St. Augustine, FL

Graveside Service

MAY 9. 2:30 PM (ET)

Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32218-1247
(904) 766-5222

Tribute Wall

DC

“ He was the best! Lt. O’Leary was my company commander in basic at Ft. Jackson, S.C. Told us if we shot expert we got a weekend pass which wasn’t allowed in basic. He got the 4 of us passes. Im 80 now , never forgot that great leader.

David Conner - February 23 at 04:05 PM

YB

“ I am honored to have grown up knowing Bart as my God father, I’ll cherish my earliest memories of him placing me into my car seat. My childhood would of looked a lot different without his one of a kind heart, as well as humor.

Thank you for everything Bart, you will always be my God father.

Yovani Bautista - May 13, 2024 at 11:25 AM

JG

“ Bart was a good friend from my days at Catholic Charities. Rest in peace, dear Bart.
Jeanette Ghioto

jeanette Ghioto - May 09, 2024 at 07:28 PM

JF

“ So sorry to hear of Bart’s passing. We were neighbors back in the day and went to St. Pat’s together. He was a special guy from a great family. Rest in Peace, Bart.
Judy Taylor Frappier

Judy Taylor Frappier - May 05, 2024 at 06:30 AM

R1

My Brother in Arms ... & every way !!!

Ron Pettee - PHS 1961 - June 02, 2024 at 11:24 AM

KV

“ *My deepest sympathies to the O’Leary family*💕💕

Kathy Loch Vetter - May 04, 2024 at 05:49 PM

JF

“ *I will miss Bart’s hugs, smile, and little laugh. It was always great seeing him at the family reunions. I will add him to my list of those I ask for help when I play a round of golf. Bart was on time for his tee time with Tricia and his dad but first a big hug from his mom. May the family think of him surrounded by all who were there to greet him. May the many memories help you through the difficult days.*

Jean Frisbee - May 03, 2024 at 08:33 PM

SO

“ *My condolences to the O’Leary family*

steve O’Leary - May 03, 2024 at 04:33 PM