

David Milburn Bradford

May 25, 1942 - December 1, 2025

David Milburn "Dave" Bradford passed away on December 01, 2025 at the age of 83. Dave was born on May 25, 1942 in Fort Smith, Arkansas to Milburn and Mary Kay Bradford. The Bradfords moved to California when Dave was 2 years old and eventually settled down in Etna, the place Dave lived for the majority of his life.

Growing up in Scott Valley, he spent most of his time horseback or working on many of the local ranches. He always imagined living the life of a cowboy, however, this changed during his teenage years when he realized a new calling: serving his country.

Dave enlisted in the U.S Army the day before his 17th birthday. During this time as a soldier, Dave served with dedication and valor. He spent a total of five tours overseas, including three tours in Germany and two in Vietnam. During his first Vietnam tour, he was wounded in combat and spent 7 months in the hospital. However, he recovered and returned for a second combat tour. For his actions in the military, Dave received numerous decorations, including a Bronze Star with V device for valor, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal (6 awards), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and two Army Commendation Medals.

While in the Army, Dave honed his natural ability with firearms and served on the U.S. Army Rifle team, competing in marksmanship competitions around the world. He was awarded the President's One Hundred Tab, a designation earned by the 100 top-scoring military and civilian shooters in the President's Pistol and Rifle Matches. Dave also won the historic rifleman's badge (gold medal) ten different times. Between competitions, Dave served as the U.S Rifle Team's gunsmith and would go on to provide firearm training to various military and law-enforcement agencies in many different countries.

Aside from being a decorated soldier, Dave was a dedicated family man. During his first tour in Germany, he was introduced to the love of his life, Winni. They met in March of 1962 and were married on August 9th, 1962. Dave became a father when his daughter, Sandy, was born in 1966 and again when his son, Tim, was born in 1967. A military family, they moved frequently, living in many places around Germany and the United States before Dave's retirement from the Army in 1979. At the end of his military career, Dave again chose a life of service, enrolling in the Gilroy police academy, where he won both

the top academic award as well as the top marksmen award. The Bradford family moved home to Etna, where they settled down. Dave served as the Chief of Police for 18 years. To his family and community, Dave was known for his kindness and gentle demeanor. His sense of humor was bright and he would always be there for a person in need. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. As a community leader in Scott Valley, Dave was a generous member of the Masonic Lodge and Lions Club. He was the local gunsmith who worked on just about everyone's firearms in Scott Valley. When it came to his family, his country, and his community, Dave truly dedicated his life to serving others and he will be missed.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, Milburn and Mary Kay, and his daughter, Sandy.

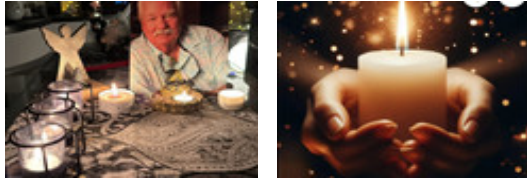
Dave is loved and survived by his wife Winni, his son Tim, his daughter-in-law Dana, his grandson Trey, his grandson Ty, his granddaughter-in-law Berenice, his great grandson Matthew, his sister-in law Ute and family. Finally, he is survived by the community of Scott Valley.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held graveside at Etna Cemetery on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album Obituary Wall



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:18 PM

LH

“ My condolences to Tante Winni, Tim and his family. Mom and I are heartbroken to have heard about Uncle Dave's passing. He will always have a special place in our hearts and memories.

Lee HvpMats - December 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ My Mother and I are deeply saddened by the News of Uncle Daves passing. Uncle Dave and Tante Winni were a very important of my life and my Mother's life over many years. Uncle Dave even helped setup the CB radio in our house and car when he and Tante Winni lived in Fort Ord. Sadly Mom and I weren't great in staying in contact with either of them because Mom is in very poor health under Hospice care and I am also very ill with heart failure and lung and kidney issues. I just want Tante Winni and Tim and his family to know that Mom and I are really sorry for your loss and we hope you find comfort from wonderful memories and Love from family and friends. Rest in Peace Uncle Dave. Mom and I will always have fond memories of you.



Lee and Eva Matsuyama - December 28, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ You will always have fond memories in our hearts. Rest in Peace and may God Bless you

Eva G Matsuyama & Lee Matsuyama - December 28, 2025 at 12:00 AM

UT

“ Our hearts and prayers are with you in Etna.

Ute - December 20, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to you. The unexpectedness of this loss makes it all the more heartbreaking. You are in our thoughts.



Trisha and Samuel Sanchez - December 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ seems like every time I talked to him, I learned something

Mark Smith - December 12, 2025 at 12:00 AM

VI

“ I grew up in Etna, Dave was a steple of our community. My first time meeting him I was 12. He was our hunters safety instructor. When I took my final exam I remembered being very nervous as I took my test up to Dave to be graded. He went down the page and marked every question wrong. About half way down I thought, Im not the smartest kid in the class but no way could I have not learned anything. About then he was kind of thinking the same thing and he realized he had the answer key slightly shifted and the bubbles where not lined up. He went back down the page and graded it again and I dont recall the grade, but I passed! We were both relieved and had a laugh about it and were friends ever since. As a teenager out after curfew in Etna, he gave me many a lifts home. Knowing how much trouble I would get in coming home in a police car, he would drop me off at the bottom of the hill by the cemetery and let me walk the rest of the way home. Thats the kind of guy Dave was. These are a couple of many memories I have of Dave, he was a great man. My condolences to his family and our community.

Vienna - December 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Such a great man! Our condolences to Winni and Tim and family. I loved all of the stories he would tell about watching over all of us kids when we were growing up. He truly cared!

Bethany Brazil McKechnie - December 11, 2025 at 12:00 AM

UN

“ To Dave, Ulis American dad. We have so many fond and deep memories of his kindness, love and generosity that really touched and changed our lives.

Uli and Hannes with Linus and Nik - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ I transferred to the CHP office in 1983. It was privileged to meet Dave shortly thereafter. He was always somebody I can count on when I needed help and I needed somebody to back me up. He will be truly truly missed my best of the family. Ed Fawaz

Ed Fawaz - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ Such a great man condolences to the family RIP Dave

Wendy Whittaker - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ My condolences to Winnie, Tim and family. Dave was a wonderful man and I am proud to have been his friend. He was a very dear friend and Vietnam brother. I will always cherish the times we spent together working, fishing and just talking. RIP Dave.

Tom Cook - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ My family spent a tour with the Bradfords in Grafenwoehr, Germany. My fondest memories as a child were the times we were all together. Dave will be sorely missed, but I know we will see him again. Much love to the Bradfords. Jeff Militano

Thomas Militano - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ My sincere condolences Winni, Tim, Dana, and boys. Dave was an incredible man and will be missed by many. May God be with you all in these difficult times.

Love,
Jojo and Alishia Rowe-Babb

Alishia - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ My son Ty's bike in the Fouth grade was stolen and we called Dave, the next dad Dave not only got it back he had replaced the tires with new ones because the had already been sold WE LOVE DAVE what a wonderful man❤️in so many ways

Vonita Bishop - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Our condolences to Winni, Tim and family. We are grateful and thank him for his service.

Bonnie Mortenson - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ RIP. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. 🙏🙏❤️❤️

Kristen Naylor - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ ❤️

Debbie March - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dave was so very special to me, he was a 2nd dad to me. I only knew my own dad for 29 yrs I have known him for 45 years. (As Winni is my 2nd mom). In 1980 he gave me a special gift of letting me ride their horses, it was a highlight in my teen years. A funny story/ my parents went to on a trip I stayed home. I had accidentally punctured my hand with a rusty nail. The next morning I knew I needed to be seen for I had had a blood streak going up my arm. Dave took a look at my arm and said get your seatbelt on and hold on. With lights going we flew over the mountain, fastest trip ever through the valley. Then he had to be put me under "custody" to have me treated. Dave you will truly missed, thank for being in my life all these years. ❤️ Debbie

Debbie Bowling - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

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Debbie Bowling - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Full story 📌
<https://shorturl.at/GOTx7>

Chelsea Halimah - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Gentle giant with a heart as big as the outdoors he loved. He served his community with kindness and gentleness and wisdom. He touched us all.



Jim and Cindy Kelly - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for David Milburn Bradford - December 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM