



Alton William Blair

January 15, 1945 - July 14, 2024

Alton "Al" Blair of Yucaipa peacefully passed away at the at of 79 on July 13, 2024.

Born in Loma Linda, Al grew up in Fontana and graduated from Fontana High School in

1962. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1965, and served in the Red Horse Civil

Engineering unit stationed in Thailand during the Viet Nam war. After four years of

service, Al returned home where he then graduated from Chaffey College and CSU San

Bernardino with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While attending college, Al worked at the

California Youth Authority and then Riverside Probation Department as a Juvenile Hall

counselor. He was always firm but kind with juveniles; he made the kids laugh. Al was

subsequently promoted to a Deputy Probation Officer, and retired in 2004 as a Supervisor.

Al and his wife loved to travel, especially to Asia. They became involved with and

supported an orphanage in Thailand. He was also a fan of football, which he played in

both high school and college. He was also an assistant coach at Fontana High School for a few years. He loved going to and watching USC football and Dodgers baseball games. Al was very athletic, and went to the gym regularly until his health began to fail. He enjoyed meeting every morning with his friends at Starbucks in Yucaipa. Al was an outgoing person who made friends wherever he went. He would stop and help others in need. Everyone who knew him has warm and kind memories that will never be forgotten.

Al loved spending time with his family. He was a dedicated "papa" who supported and had fun with his daughter, Sara. He enjoyed watching Sara perform at the Redlands Theatre Festival and never missed a performance. He loved cheering for his grandson Connor when he played baseball and hearing about how he was doing on his drums and guitar. Al loved taking trips to visit his beloved sister Claudine in Oregon, and going to lunch with his brother David.

Al is survived by his wife, Diane; his daughter, Sara and son in law, Alex; his grandson, Connor; two siblings, David Blair and Claudine Rayfield; and two nieces, Mike Shipley and Amy Woods.

The memorial service and Celebration of Life for Al will be held Friday, July 26, 10:30 - 11:30 am, at Preston and Simons Mortuary, 3358 Mission Inn Av. in Riverside, followed

by a reception from 11:30 - 1:00 pm. A burial service will held at the Riverside National

Cemetery, 22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside, from 1:45 - 2:15 pm

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 26. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Reception

JUL 26. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Burial

JUL 26. 1:45 PM - 2:15 PM (Pst)

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd
Riverside, CA 92518

Tribute Wall

DN

“ Don and Marianna Nissen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alton William Blair.



Don and Marianna Nissen - July 24, 2024 at 05:31 PM

PC

“ Paul & Christine planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alton William Blair.

Paul & Christine - July 22, 2024 at 03:16 PM

PC

“ Paul & Christine purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Alton William Blair.



Paul & Christine - July 22, 2024 at 03:16 PM

LP

“ Lowell & Kathy Clark & Stephanie Poveda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alton William Blair.

Lowell & Kathy Clark & Stephanie Poveda - July 20, 2024 at 12:14 PM

LP

“ Lowell & Kathy Clark & Stephanie Poveda purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Alton William Blair.



Lowell & Kathy Clark & Stephanie Poveda - July 20, 2024 at 12:14 PM

VP

“ Al was a wonderful friend. I enjoyed working with him so much in the 70's. He was so good with the kids at Riverside Juvenile Hall. Last month at lunch he was his fun, smiling self. He will be missed! Hugs to Diane & family, Vicki Phillips.

Vicki Phillips - July 19, 2024 at 02:35 PM

JD

“ Hanging out together at Laguna Beach, your family, including all of your brother's family, and our family, sometimes even my children from up North--most of my Al Blair memories are from those trips, but there were also house parties where Al and I could tease each other, and he always got in the last word! I'm glad to have so many good memories of Al, and to know you do too.

Jennifer Decker - July 17, 2024 at 06:43 PM