



## William Joseph Bergen Sr.

August 4, 1938 - January 3, 2014

William Joseph Bergen Sr., 75, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died January 3, 2014, at Siloam Springs Regional Hospital. Born August 4, 1938, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, he was the son of Leland Edgar Bergen and Sarah Phyllis Rose Bergen. He was a graduate of Harrison High School, Arkansas Tech University, and the University of Arkansas. He retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after 22 years of service. From December 11, 1978 to December 6, 1981, he was the commander of 362nd PSYOP Company. Bill received a master's degree in music education and a specialist degree in education administration. He was the band director at Siloam Springs High School and was the Elementary and High School Principal for a number of years.

He married Rebecca Hunt on December 27, 1959, in Dardanelle, Arkansas. They were both members of the First Presbyterian Church in Siloam Springs, where he was a deacon, an elder, and the choir director.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Rebecca; one daughter, Sarah Leigh Bergen Dove and husband Dewayne of Russellville, Arkansas; one son, William Joseph Bergen Jr., and wife Julie Ann of Fort Smith, Arkansas; and one grandson, Keith Dewayne Dove of Russellville, Arkansas.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2013, at First

Presbyterian Church, Siloam Springs, with Rev. Breck Castleman and Tom West officiating. Burial will be 3:30 p.m., at Brearly Cemetery, Dardanelle, Arkansas. Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, January 6, 2013, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 606, Siloam Springs, AR 72761 or the Siloam Springs High School Scholarship Fund, 700 North Progress Avenue, Siloam Springs, AR 72761.

# Cemetery Details

## Brearly Cemetery

Brearly Cemetery  
Dardanelle, AR

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
201 E. Ashley  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

## Graveside Service

JAN 7. 3:30 PM (CT)

Brearly Cemetery  
Brearly Cemetery  
Dardanelle, AR

# Tribute Wall

KJ

“ My condolences & deepest sympathy to the family. Mr. Bergen will be so missed & always loved. He contributed so much to our community and lives. So many of us have the fondest memories of him tucked away in our hearts... where they will remain always.

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**Kim Strickland Jackson** - June 18, 2014 at 03:03 PM

AK

“ So many memories of Mr. Bergen. Earliest were 6th Grade glee club, which met in the old agri building out behind the grey stone high school (then junior high). Once he discovered that I could play the piano, he rescued me from PE class so that I could accompany the 7th & 8th grade glee club as well. That alone should get him a place in heaven!

In high school, he would periodically put together a choir of sorts and I would play for that. Also remember accompanying solos at Regionals - capped off with the band's performance of "There Shall a Star from Jacob," which earned them a 1.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

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**Allen Kimbrough** - January 23, 2014 at 01:57 PM

RC

“ *Mr. Bergen (Bill) was a wonderful band director. I remember the first time I saw him direct. His hands were always beautiful and graceful to watch and so easy to follow. It was as if he took your hand and guided you through the music. He made the tough parts seem so much easier and possible to get through. I am sure he must have been the same as a husband and father.*

*Sarah would always just beam and grin from ear to ear when her father took the baton.*

*Siloam Springs lost a fine citizen and teacher this last week. The family lost a great husband and father. He will be missed, but always fondly remembered.*

*Russell (Rusty) Cothren  
Winslow, Ark*

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**Russell Cothren** - January 09, 2014 at 11:13 AM

TD

“ *Oh, my! I am truly sorry. Mr. Bergen was so wonderful to Paul and me for all of these year after L.W. passed. I pray for strength and peace for you, Ms. Becca.*

*Teresa Dow*

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**Teresa Dow** - January 08, 2014 at 08:28 PM

NF

“ *My condolences on Mr. Bergen's passing. He was a wonderful principal and friend, and he will be sorely missed.*

*Norma Flory*

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**Norma Flory** - January 08, 2014 at 01:03 PM

EV

“ *Mr. Bergen was my band director in high school, He was more that a band director, he was also a good friend. I will always cherish all the memories of the band trips, football games, concerts, even daily classes. My most fond memory, was walking into the band room, and Mr Bergen eyes met me from his office window. I knew this was going to be interesting...*

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**Evan Vohs** - January 08, 2014 at 12:58 PM



“ *I am so sorry about your loss. May God bless you all and keep each other close. Thinking of all of you today and wish there were words to make it easier.*

*Robbin Fletcher Gorman*

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**Robbin Gorman** - January 07, 2014 at 05:35 PM

CC

“ *Even after being out of school for 40 years, I still march in time. A teacher, a mentor, and a friend. Carol Clark*



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**Carol Clark** - January 07, 2014 at 01:03 PM

JL

“ *God bless the Bergen family. Charline and I send our heart felt codolences. J.C. and Charline Long.*

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**J.C. LONG** - January 07, 2014 at 11:43 AM

GH

“ *Mr Bergen touched so many lives with his teaching ,good morals, and he was compassionate. You are in my prayers and may you find strength in Christ as you face this next year of facing holidays, birthdays, anniversaries without him.*

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**Georgenia Robison Harris** - January 07, 2014 at 08:04 AM

JS

“ *I have many fond memories of Mr. Bergen welcoming me into the High School Band when my parents moved to Siloam Springs at the beginning of my freshman year in the mid 1970's. My prayers are with his family. Janet (Cheatham) Sinks*

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**Janet Sinks** - January 06, 2014 at 08:24 PM

DE

“ *David Elliott lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Bergen Sr.*



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**David Elliott** - January 06, 2014 at 07:08 PM

CT

“ *Many memories of Mr. Bergen. As a friend of his son, I was always welcome in their home. One favorite memory was our entire senior class filling his office with Oreos in an attempt to bribe him to let us out of school a day early.*

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**Chris (David) Thurstenson** - January 06, 2014 at 05:42 PM

JN

“ *Bill and I grew up together, and he was like a brother to me. He touched many lives in a positive way and had a wonderful family. We pray comfort for Rebeca, William, Sarah Leigh, Dewayne, and Keith and share your loss. John Nickols*

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**John Nickols** - January 06, 2014 at 04:14 PM

DM

“ *Knew what a fine person Mr. Bergen was through daughter and grandson, Keith. A life full of service and compassion. Rest in peace.*  
*Denny McCrotty*

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**Denny McCrotty** - January 06, 2014 at 07:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Joseph Bergen Sr..*



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January 05, 2014 at 11:32 PM

JF

“ Bill Bergen walked into Kirby's Drug Store in Harrison, Arkansas and talked me into going to Arkansas Tech and to be in the band there. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. I had already decided to go to another school. Rebecca, my roommate, I know what you are going through. it is hard to lose your soul mate. I am so glad I got to see Bill at your anniversary. When things settle down, please call and we can do lunch and talk about our wonderful husbands. Just know for now, I am holding you close to my heart in thoughts and prayers. If I can't make it because of weather, I am sorry. When you want to visit, please call 445-9489 or 751-5907. Love, Joy McClellan Foringer

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**Joy McClellan Foringer** - January 05, 2014 at 07:06 PM

PP

“ Dear Rebecca,  
I am deeply sorry to learn of your husband's death. I will never forget your phone call to give me support at the time of my own husband's death. Please know I keep you and your family in my prayers. If I can help you in any way please know I am always here for you. Sincerely, Pat (Beran) Petray

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**Pat Petray** - January 05, 2014 at 03:25 PM

TM

“ I have always had great memories of Mr. Bergen. After I graduated if I seen him out anywhere he made sure he told me hi and gave me that big smile of his. He will be missed by many for he touched many heart's here on this earth. I pray God give you all peace and comfort in the days ahead of you! God Bless you all!

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**Tonya Roberts Myrick** - January 04, 2014 at 09:43 PM

SR

“ *Suzi ,Lisa And Tony Reading lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Bergen Sr.*



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**Suzi ,Lisa and Tony Reading** - January 04, 2014 at 07:39 PM

BR

“ *William and Family,*

*Mr. Bergen was one of the grandest gentlemen I ever met. I count it a privilege to have known him. Be certain that you are in our prayers during this time of loss and need.*

*God Bless,  
Bro. Sid & Charlotte Ree*

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**Bro. Sid & Charlotte Ree** - January 04, 2014 at 06:46 PM

SF

“ *Suzy Ferguson lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Bergen Sr.*



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**Suzy Ferguson** - January 04, 2014 at 06:37 PM

BR

“ *William and Family,*

*Mr. Bergen was one of the grandest men I ever meet and I certainly count it a privilege to have known him. He was always a joy to be around. Be certain that we are praying for you during this time of loss and need.*

*Bro. Sid & Charlotte Ree*

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**Bro. Sid & Charlotte Ree** - January 04, 2014 at 06:23 PM

DM

“ *Bill was a great guy and a strong friend to bands. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Dale Marlow*

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**Dale Marlow** - January 04, 2014 at 05:08 PM

GM

“ *Mr. Bergen, you gave many of your band students our best memories of school. Thank You!*

*Condolences to Mrs. Bergen and (the little one I babysat) Sarah and family and William, Jr. and family. God bless you all.*

*Sincerely,*

*Glenda (Billings) Myrick*

*SSHS 1966*

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**Glenda Myrick** - January 04, 2014 at 01:44 PM

KR

“ *What wonderful memories we have of the days when we were a street-over neighbors and our children were great friends. All the sleep-overs and visits and Christmas goodies exchanged. Siloam Springs schools, its students and its band and music programs were forever touched and changed and hundreds of children and young adults learned to love music, march the football fields and excel in life because of Bill and Becky's influence. Bill will be long remembered and cherished.*

*Katie Rennard  
Mom of Michele, Raton and Becci Parmain all of whom were influenced buy your leadership and kindness.*

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**Katie Rennard** - January 04, 2014 at 01:27 PM

BS

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Betty Southerland** - January 04, 2014 at 12:29 PM

TB

“ *Teresa G. Beasley lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Bergen Sr.*



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**Teresa G. Beasley** - January 04, 2014 at 12:21 PM

SE

“ *Mr. And Mrs. Bergen have been strong, positive icons for our school as long as I can remember. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I saw them only a week ago, attending a school event. My heartfelt prayers go out to dear Mrs. Bergen and the family as they go through this difficult time.* ”

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**Shelly Erb Eason** - January 04, 2014 at 10:52 AM

RE

“ *One of my all-time favorites!* ”

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**Richard Ezell** - January 04, 2014 at 10:02 AM



“ *Mr Bergen loved oreos, on senior skip day his office would be filled with packages from seniors who would hope that those cookies would keep them out of trouble!* ”

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**Teresa Smith** - January 04, 2014 at 09:40 AM

KP

“ *Kay Parmain lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Bergen Sr.* ”



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**Kay Parmain** - January 03, 2014 at 11:26 PM

KP

*Bill Bergen was a wonderful man, who our family will remember as a great principal, friend and co-worker. Our children all had "Mr. Bergen" as their principal at SSHS and all thought highly of him. I worked in the school administration along with Bill many years. He was congenial, fair and great to partner with in the school administration.*

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**Kay Parmain** - January 03, 2014 at 11:34 PM

JB

“ *Joe & Cheryl Burns lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Bergen Sr.*



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**Joe & Cheryl Burns** - January 03, 2014 at 08:31 PM