



## Ernest Beavers

February 20, 1939 - October 10, 2023

Ernest Orville “Ernie” Beavers was born on February 20, 1939 in Milo, Oklahoma, the son of Ernest and Dorothy Mae Beavers. He passed away on October 10, 2023 in Tulsa, Oklahoma and entered his heavenly home at the age of 84.

Orville was saved at the age of 10 at a spring revival at Woodford Baptist Church and credited his Uncle Bob’s and Aunt Pearlene’s witnessing, leadership, and faithfulness to the Lord that resulted in him, his parents and two brothers becoming born-again Christians. He also made assurance of his salvation at Bayanihan Baptist Bible Church in Angeles City, Philippines in 1977.

Orville grew up in the country with a big family – three sisters and four brothers, one of whom died in infancy. At around age 14, he survived a bad car wreck with his older brother Robert and younger brother Jerry. His mother said, “God saved all of them.” He graduated from high school in 1957 from Rexroat Consolidated School in Rexroat, Oklahoma.

Ernest enlisted in the United States Air Force on March 4, 1958. He was selected to be a morse intercept operator in the USAF Security Service, and after basic training, went to advanced training in Morse Code at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi. As one of the top honor graduates, in part, because he had learned American Morse Code from a railroad communication course, he was selected to attend advanced lateral training at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas. Ernest received orders to go to Karamursel Air Base, Turkey.

This is where he first learned judo, which quickly became a great passion of his. He was later stationed in Osan Air Base, Korea, Langley AFB, Virginia, and Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines. His assignments included top-secret operations with tasks assigned by the CIA, and he received many ribbons, awards, citations, and medals.

On the first day of his arrival on Clark Air Base on January 1, 1964, Ernie met the love of his life, Mabini Antonio. He went to the BX to buy some razors and ended up in the department where she was working. The attraction was instant as he saw her and her smile – a smile that he thought was just for him, not realizing she greeted all customers that way! Mabini was not interested at first and often tried to leave work through the back door, since he came to the BX every day and waited by the front door to see her before she got on the bus. Although her friends were in awe that he looked like Paul Newman, the American actor, and they read in the base paper that he was a black belt in judo, he did not win her over until he started taking the 45-minute bus trip to her house to visit her and her family. Her brother-in-law said, “If you marry him, he will not divorce you.” They married nine months later, on October 18, 1964. Together, they had three children, Judy, Jeffrey, and Joy. Their marriage was an example others wanted to follow, and God blessed them with nearly 59 years together.

In March 1969, Ernest received orders for Vietnam, where he was out of his primary skill in Intelligence and served as a brigadier general’s driver and bodyguard. Among the numerous decorations he received in Vietnam were the RVN Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with three stars, the AF Outstanding Unit Award, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He completed his tour of duty in Vietnam in March 1970.

As a result of listening to high-speed morse codes for several years, Ernie had developed a severe speech impediment, stuttering, that caused him embarrassment when talking. One of his judo students, who was also a speech therapist, hinted that he should make people laugh at him by being

funny on purpose. Ernie was stationed at Hickam AFB in Hawaii in 1973 when he entered Tops In Blue, the Air Force's premier talent contest, with a comedy routine. As the local winner, he advanced to the Pacific Air Forces finals at Clark Air Base, Philippines, followed by the worldwide championships at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas, where he won a WILCO bronze statuette trophy for second place. He was thrilled to win two free trips plus that WILCO. You do not know Ernie as well as you thought you did if you have not seen him perform "The Wounded Soldier" and "Peanut Butter" skits!

Ernie was set to retire after 20 years of service but was offered the option to close out his career in Hawaii or extend a couple more years and go back to Clark. They chose the Philippines, where he was stationed for three years. He retired August 31, 1980, giving 22 years, five months, and 27 days of active military service to his country. Ernie and his family took terminal leave in Hawaii for two months and returned home to Ardmore, Oklahoma. He was an unofficial Air Force recruiter, as he inspired a brother-in-law to join the military, and his son and a grandson followed in his footsteps with the USAF. Even his daughter-in-law served and one grandson-in-law is currently serving in the USAF.

Taking advantage of the GI Bill, Ernie graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in May 1985. He enjoyed a second fulfilling career in Elementary Education, as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal in various Christian and public schools, with his last job in Special Education at Moore Public Schools. He and Mabini both retired from teaching and moved to Tulsa in 2013.

Ernie achieved the rank of Sandan, 3rd Degree Black Belt in judo November 12, 1979. He was active in judo for over 40 years. Ernie loved competing in judo tournaments in Manila and Okinawa, and equally loved teaching judo to his family and started judo clubs everywhere he lived. His love for teaching was to mold young Judoka with purpose, proper motivation, and dedication to see them grow in character, humility, and confidence.

He enjoyed weight-lifting and playing and watching professional golf. He was more of a hacker, but somehow, his score was always lower than his son-in-law's every time they played! Ernie was the king of flat-arm, judo push-ups - often imitated, never duplicated. He even did 60 of them on his 60th birthday! Ernie had a love and talent for gardening and landscaping. After retiring from the Air Force, he always planted a vegetable garden and created landscapes for his front and back yards with rock gardens, ponds, and cultivating the planting spaces as works of art.

Because of the Air Force life, Ernest was privileged through the years to be a member of several churches - in the Philippines and across the United States and had served in various roles as Sunday School teacher, Children's church worker, AWANA commander, trustee, and deacon. Eastland Baptist Church was his last church home, and he enjoyed a great camaraderie with his friends. They met weekly at the senior haven for potlucks, fellowship, playing dominos and pool.

Ernie was a man of faith, family, and country. He loved his wife kids, and grandkids, and he loved being with them. He always made them feel loved and was proud of them.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Mabini Beavers, daughter, Judy Maxon and husband Scott of Lenexa, Kansas, son Jeff and wife Pamela of Lenexa, Kansas, daughter Joy Brewer and husband Greg of Tulsa, grandchildren: Brad Bishop, Jacob Beavers and wife Kelsea, Eric Maxon and wife Allison, Alyssa (Beavers) Rohman and husband Cole, Lydia (Beavers) Martinez and husband Ely, Audrey Maxon, and Grant Brewer; great-grandchildren: one on the way; siblings Jerry Beavers and wife Kathy, Barbara Gill and husband John, and Vicki Briant and husband Carl; many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Dorothy Beavers, and siblings, Robert Beavers, Bill Beavers, Gary Beavers, and Patsy Gothard.

Ernie is described by his loved ones as giving, loving, kind, sweet, compassionate, tender-hearted, sassy, funny, put salt on everything he ate, loved his sweet tea, loved ice cream, God-loving, loyal, GI peanut butter,

jokester, biggest iPad kid, ornery, strong, warrior, shepherd, disabled Vietnam veteran, prostate cancer survivor, always looking out for his family, ultimate role model, and that everyone should live their life like Ernie did. He was always glad to see you, even though his favorite send-off was "Glad you got to see me!" Ernie will be greatly missed by those who knew him as a husband, daddy, brother, cousin, uncle, airman, sensei, friend, grandpa, and soon-to-be great grandpa.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Timothy 4:7-8

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Viewing

OCT **22**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Eastland Baptist Church  
1835 South 129th East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74108  
<http://eastlandbaptist.org>

## Burial

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OCT **23**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery  
1423 Cemetery Rd.  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434  
(918) 478-2334

# Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.



October 23, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ I'm so sorry I will miss the service today. I've been sick and still weak. Love and prayers to you my sweet Mabini and family. ❤️ 🙏🏻 🙏🏻 ❤️

**louvetia swearengin** - October 23, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ Ernest Beavers

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ Mario and Donna Reyes purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ernest Beavers.



**Mario and Donna Reyes** - October 20, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ Mario and Donna Reyes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest Beavers.

**Mario and Donna Reyes** - October 20, 2023 at 01:48 PM

OF

“ *OmaLee and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest Beavers.*

OmaLee and family - October 20, 2023 at 01:40 PM

OF

“ *OmaLee and family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



OmaLee and family - October 20, 2023 at 01:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



October 20, 2023 at 01:09 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



October 20, 2023 at 01:07 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



October 18, 2023 at 10:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



October 18, 2023 at 08:50 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



October 18, 2023 at 07:31 PM



“ *Thoroughly enjoyed what little time I spent with them, he was a gentle unassuming man, who had not only experienced and accomplished so much, but lived his faith always. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him. My deepest condolences to all his family. Linda Sanders*

**Linda Sanders** - October 16, 2023 at 03:48 PM

CB

“ *Such fawn memories of Ernie and Mabini from Koolua Baptist Church in Hawaii.*

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**Carolyn Brooks** - October 16, 2023 at 03:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



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October 16, 2023 at 02:42 PM

PF

“ *Patricia Beilman & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



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**Patricia Beilman & Family** - October 14, 2023 at 08:55 AM

NM

“ *Nancy M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernest Beavers.*

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**Nancy M.** - October 11, 2023 at 07:01 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ernest Beavers.*



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October 11, 2023 at 10:36 AM

OH

“ *He was my friend, and I loved him.*

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**Orville Hood** - October 11, 2023 at 08:15 AM

JB

*Thank you for being his friend, Mr. Orville. I'll think of him every time I greet you by your shared name. God bless you.*

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**Joy Brewer** - October 13, 2023 at 07:25 AM