



# **Bruce C Solomon**

MAR 15, 1949 - JUL 29, 2019



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## **Bruce C Solomon**

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**B**ruce Craig Solomon was born on March 15, 1949 in Cottonwood Maternity Hospital to LaVene Gines and George Padley. His parents may not have realized that Bruce was born to fulfill an incandescent destiny. He was received by siblings Karl, LouDean, Sherlyn, and Georga Mounteer. Later, as life changed, Bruce was grateful to be adopted by his stepfather, Walter E. Solomon. Soon he gained two more siblings, Gordon and Kathy Solomon. As Bruce grew, he revealed the contrasting abilities to think deeply yet be the life of the party. He loved anything involving a ball: During his Little League program, he benefited greatly from the guidance of Coach LaVell Edwards and became a ferocious pitcher who took his team to a state championship. Bruce continued to play baseball and football in high school until a summer in San Francisco shifted his perspective. Soon after graduating from Granite High School, he joined the Marine Corps. After marrying his high school sweetheart, he served seventeen months in Vietnam, most of it in “Leatherneck Square” near the DMZ where he dodged many bullets but was repeatedly doused in Agent Orange, which eventually killed him. In addition to the Vietnam Service Medal with a silver star, Bruce was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with a combat “V” and other commendations. He came home to an ungrateful nation and struggled mightily with survival guilt in addition to the challenge of becoming an instant father to his year-old daughter who had been born while he was overseas.

Despite rampant PTSD and the vagaries of his physical condition, Bruce received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Social Work from the University of Utah, where he was an avid Crimson Club member and football fan. He also earned a master’s in Organizational Behavior from the University of Phoenix. For 30 years of his adult life he irrevocably made the world a better place by working with people and organizations as a communication and transformational trainer. At age 60, he felt



## Obituary

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called to focus his healing energies on his brothers-in-arms; for ten years he worked primarily with combat veterans and their families as a trauma therapist in Southern Utah. He and his wife also delivered Strengthening Marriage and Family classes within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Bruce loved sports, fly fishing, golf, laughter and music. In another life he would have been a disc jockey. Despite his strong independent streak, he belonged to many associations including Vietnam Veterans of America, the Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and National Association of Social Workers. He often remarked, "I've had a much better life than I ever expected." He was rich in the love of his family, his many friends, his transformational students, and his clients.

Bruce is survived by four siblings, by his wife of 51 years, Dorothy Allred Solomon, by his four children: Denise Andreianne Sanchez (Anthony), Layla Janelle Hardy (Todd), Jeffrey Bruce Solomon (Jennifer Leavitt) and Laurissa Jeanne Long (Russell) and by his fourteen grandchildren: Jenna Christine Eastman, Cassaundra Justine Gibson, Jeffrey Stewart Hardy, Tyson David Reese, Jackson Clark Hardy, Michael Jacob Reese, Anthony Roman Sanchez, Russell Michael Long Jr., Logan Bruce Hardy, Lily Mei Solomon, Esme Janelle Hardy, Katherine Maleah Long, Noah Benjamin Solomon and Finley Elizabeth Hardy. That Monday morning, July 29, as Bruce struggled to breathe, his first great-grandson was born into this world; ten minutes later Bruce was born into his next life. We are awestruck by the mysterious and beautiful balancing of the universe.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2019 at 10:00 am. Arrive early to find parking near the Memorial House at Memorial Grove Park, 375 Canyon Road, Salt Lake City, Utah. Donations may be made in his name to the Wounded Warrior Project or Team Rubicon.



## Tribute Wall

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CT

**Carol A. Taylor** posted:

When we met in 1985 at Lifespring in SLC, I knew that my life was about to change. It was a honor to know you for the next many years.

January 24 at 10:46 AM

TU

**Tanya Underberg** posted:

I am so saddened to hear of Bruce's passing. I went through the Journey, Crossroads and Horizons Workshops at Rising Star Communications of Colorado in 1999, and twenty-two years later I still think about Bruce. That is how powerful his impact was on my life and I am forever grateful that I was fortunate enough to have met such an amazing person. He had that special gift of reading people, and helping them face the things in their life that were holding them back. Rest easy Bruce...and Thank You.

January 1 at 4:53 PM

RN

**Robin Netto** posted:

Dorothy, I am sorry for the loss of your companion. 1982 I was curled up in bed and my ex husband came in and said you NEED to do this course called Life Spring. I did it in Ca but it is here now. Long story short. I did it and met you and Bruce. The next few years you were my Life. I am still grateful for the chance I had to participate in LifeSpring. I broke open to a whole other world of making a difference. I loved meeting up at "This is the Place " Monument on Saturday mornings and 6 am to look out and envision a world that worked for everyone. I KNOW my transformation happened in LifeSpring and I loved enrolling all the hundreds of people I put into the course. Bruce's passion for Life and his power to share that vision was so contagious. I was given the opening to see how much I love people and it gave me more joy than I can express. Thank you Bruce and Dorothy for bringing Transformation to SLC. You will be remembered for ever.

August 14 at 9:35 PM

ME

**Me** posted:

Thank you for your service our dear brother!! May God bless your family!

August 5 at 7:20 PM



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**Lonnie And Reuben** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



August 5 at 5:46 AM



**Shari Mctiver** posted:

I'm the guilty on, so you can blame me. I was so inspired by my experiences with Team Rubicon that I convinced Bruce to join. I know that he pointed a great many of his veteran clients our way. They're all awesome. Bruce served as our Communications Coordinator for the St George City team. And he was awesome at it. Everyone noticed his efforts. The following was posted by the Region 8 Communications Director about a tribute for Bruce at the TR Operation Warrior Sanctuary in Swan Valley, MT:"We stopped work at 11AM at Warrior Sanctuary to honor Bruce Solomon. (The time we felt the military honors would start at his memorial.) We had a moment of silence and I said a few words (full disclosure Jonas Reynolds wrote them):Team Rubicon honors the life and service of our fellow Greyshirt and brother. Rest easy Bruce as you bridge that next gap. You're legacy and example thrives within the team you helped build.It was a nice moment, in the woods with the majority of the group sweaty from doing Chainsaw work to honor Bruce. I was thankful to have him as a member of my team."Be advised that work never stops on a TR Operation. But on Saturday, August 3rd, 2019, everything halted & heads were bowed for my best friend, Bruce Solomon.

August 4 at 4:20 PM



**David Lloyd** posted:

I am heartbroken for Dorothy and the children; Bruce was a wonderful guy, a real man's man, a Marine, and a hero. Our prayers for all of you.David and Jeanne Lloyd

August 3 at 4:13 PM



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JA

**Janet Fereday Arceneaux** posted:

I didn't realize how often I thought of Bruce over the years.... even currently. You see I went to elementary school with him. I remember his friends were Gary Kelson, Rick Camac and Harold Peterson. But Bruce stood out....I vividly remember watching him use a pen to draw pictures on his arm and color them in solid.He did this under his desk.... but I could see it from where I sat. I think we were in 5th grade..He would pull his shirt sleeves over so no one could see... We were told then that if we got ink on our skin that we would get blood poisoning... I worried that he would.. I asked him about that and he said that some day he was going to get a "tattoo" and that it would be on there forever I hadn't seen a "taboo" before. But to this very day his memory wafts through the years when I see tattoos. I have a copy of Dorothy's book that I read years ago about her life. I must say that one of the underlying stories is her love for Bruce and for his love for Dorothy. In my mind I can remember seeing them laugh and just being crazy and in love and happy. Seeing that you stayed married for 51 years reflects that love you two have. Reading about your current family brings such a happy warm feeling of tenderness to me. What a great "send off" he has to see all of you gathered together today to think about the good times and to support each other as a united family.Even though I am not there, you are fondly remembered I hope the coming days brings you peace and comfort and even laughter that he must have brought to all of you.LovinglyJanet Fereday ArceneauSt George Utah

August 3 at 3:44 AM

NL

**Nancy J Love** posted:

Dearest Dorothy,It seems like we were just all together having dinner. I'm sorry for the painthat you and your family are enduring. I loved reconnecting with you and Bruce and appreciated the time and insight he gave me regarding PTSD .If I can be of assistance to you or your family, please call on me.I will continue to donate to Wounded Warriors and will keep Bruce in my heart.Thinking of you,Nancy Johnson-Love

August 2 at 1:15 PM



## Tribute Wall

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KR

**Kristen** posted:

Dear Dorothy and all,I was stunned to happen upon the obituary of your incomparable and dearly loved husband and father. I'm so so sorry! Bruce was a vibrant person who graced the earth. All my love, Dorothy. I will be there at the service but may have to leave early to play in another memorial service.Kristen Rogers-Iversen

August 2 at 11:33 AM

DS

**Dorothy Solomon** August 7 at 11:56 AM

Thank you, Kristen. Before he died, Bruce and I moved back to the Salt Lake valley so he could get treatment and be near our children. Maybe we could get together one day soon?

KO

**Kerry Osterholm** posted:

Bruce was a kind of a man who did his thing; he made a positive impression on me that I remember today, although, I left Salt Lake City in early 1967. Great guy, the world is a poorer place with him absent.Prayers to the family.Kerry Osterholm

August 2 at 10:54 AM

BR

**Bruce Raftery** posted:

Bruce did yhe counseling for my project, VJI, Veterans Judicial Initiative. We pounded some of the same ground in the DMZ. I guess I'm just lucky so far. My best to you Dorthy and the family. Good guy, may he RIP.

August 2 at 9:57 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Judith Cooley** sent a virtual gift in honor of Bruce.



August 2 at 5:35 AM



**Brent Wonnacott** August 4 at 6:06 AM

Dorothy I am so Sorry for your loss. I have not seen you are Bruce for 50 years or more. But Bruce covered some of the same ground in Vietnam as I did a year or so before him. I last saw you in San Francisco while you had a short lay over with your flight to Hawaii to meet Bruce who was going on R&R. I was stationed in San Francisco at that time and had recently returned from Vietnam. Granite High School,the Marines and Vietnam, Bruce and I had a lot in common. We even had a Traffic accident together probably back in the early 70's. Its a small world sometimes. If you ever need help dealing with the VA or need some one to talk too, please feel free to give me a call. I have had to deal with VA many times over the years. As A surviving Spouse I believe you are due some benefits as well. I hope Bruce has been getting his VA Benefits over the years. Sincerely, Brent Wonnacott 801-574-6339



**Judith Cooley** August 2 at 5:44 AM

The Good Lord has taken another one of his angels home, I will miss his knowledge his crazy sense of humor. He was one of a kind and will be missed b many, his advice has helped he many time, he was a mentor to many. My sincerest sympathy goes out to his wife and children as well as the rest of the family. As a widow of a Viet Nam Veteran I fully understand the loss you are feeling. May God Bless each and everyone . I write his with tears in my eyes he was a good friend and a shoulder to cry on.Bruce I will miss your friendship and your adviceJudith Cooley



**Judith Cooley** lit a candle in honor of Bruce.



August 2 at 5:35 AM



**Premier Funeral Services** shared 4 photos to the **Memories Album** album.



August 1 at 4:32 PM



## Media

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August 5 at 5:46 AM





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August 1 at 4:32 PM



**Rosalynn Narcowich** August 23 at 2:47 PM

Bruce supported me to be the woman that I am today. I am forever grateful. He loved his family, he spoke often of their accomplishments. His guidance continues to play a part in my life today. I am forever grateful. So much love and thanks.





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Bruce by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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