



Martha Lavion Soo

December 24, 1947 - November 10, 2025

Martha Lavion Soo (Bailey), beloved wife, mother, military spouse and teacher of Burke, VA passed away Monday, November 10, 2025. She will truly be missed by many.

Martha was born on December 24, 1947, in Stuttgart, Arkansas to John and Lottie Bailey, joining brother Doyle, and sisters Margaret and Glenda. She graduated from El Dorado High School El Dorado Arkansas then earned a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Southern Arkansas University Magnolia Arkansas. She started her teaching career at the Ft Huachuca Arizona Elementary School teaching 3rd grade. There, she visited the Grand Canyon and earned a Master's in Education from University of Arizona. She then joined the Department of Defense Dependent School System Elementary School in Izmir Turkey, taught 3rd grade, enjoyed visiting archeological sites in Greece and Turkey and met her future husband, Houg Soo, She then transferred to the DoD School System in Karlsruhe Germany as a 3rd grade teacher, enjoyed travelling in Europe. In 1977, she married Colonel (then Captain) Houg Soo, U.S. Army Retired and joined him in their Service to our Nation as a United States Army Spouse.

She was an extraordinary mother, homemaker, and Army wife. She unselfishly helped Leslie navigate growing up, progress as a Girl Scout, earn a Masters in Business Administration degree and starting a family of her own.

Simultaneously she supported Houg, as an Army spouse, relocating 9 times, and helping him take care of soldiers and their families in stateside and overseas assignments.

Lavion settled in Burke upon retirement from the Army, and became a contributing member of the Burke community.

Lavion had an impact on all she interacted with. She was inspirational, adventurous, kind, loving, full of life. She lived her life to the fullest. She adapted to the impact of Alzheimer's with grace. Her greatest joys were being a Mother to Leslie and Den Mother for two Girl Scout Troops.

She is survived by her loving husband Houg, daughter Leslie (Soo) LeMaire, son-in-law Kevin LeMaire of Fredericksburg VA, sister Margret (Bailey) Campbell of El Dorado AR, sister-in laws, Lily Soo of New Hyde Park, NY and Lorraine (Soo) Tong and her husband Vinny Tong of Staten Island NY, and sister-in-law Susan Bailey of St. Louis MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents John and Lottie Bailey, brother Doyle, and sister Glenda.

Friends and family will be received at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr. Alexandria VA 22315, Saturday 22 November 2025 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington will be announced at a later date with Jefferson Funeral Chapel, Alexandria VA (703-971-74000 handling arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a Memorial contribution to Alzheimer's Foundation of America <https://givebutter.com/MarthaLavionSoo>, or a charity of your choice.

Please view and sign the family guestbook at

www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

NOV **22**. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Dr
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516
(703) 971-7400

Tribute Wall

LD

“ *Lavion was my childhood best friend. We were inseparable friends(and were no kin family❤️ in El Dorado, Arkansas). Will never forget you. Will always LOVE you❤️🙏🏻*

louann dooly dumond - January 27 at 11:59 AM

ML

“ *Sending my heartfelt condolences to Colonel Soo and family upon learning of Lavion's passing. I didn't know her personally, but I know how much they loved each other. I met Colonel Soo when he commanded the Engineer Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea. My respect for him continues to this date. May Lavion's memories live on forever.*



Mark Lee

Mark Lee - January 25 at 11:41 AM

MS

“ Marsha and I met Houng, Martha and Leslie Soo in 1992 while living close to each other in Fort Adams Rhoad Island State Park, US Navy housing, while attending Naval War college. While Houng, myself and the rest of our group plowed through the academic curriculum, our wives gathered to enjoy each others company and learn the ins and outs of life within each others military branch. Through that year our families developed a friendship filled with fond memories that will last a life time and beyond. With Martha's passing, Marsha and I extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies to the Soo and Bailey families.

Mike and Marsha Schoenfeld

Mike Schoenfeld - December 27, 2025 at 04:18 PM

MG

“ I knew Lavion through my friend Huong, whom I met in Korea, where he led the 2nd Infantry Division's Engineer Brigade while I was in Seoul on the Eighth Army staff. We developed a close friendship while each of us had key jobs in force development for the Army. Huong would speak of her often, admiring her on her career as a teacher and how she kept the family together while they were apart in different areas of Korea. I also learned much about her when Huong and I would visit and she battled a hard disease that some would call the "long, slow goodbye" would brought forth the true love and admiration of her family. Though never meeting her, her character and courage and love for his husband and children became very apparent. She was a true memorable woman.

Mark Gerner - December 05, 2025 at 09:34 PM

MG

Jefferson Funeral Chapel

MG

Mark Gerner

a day ago

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Mark Gerner - December 06, 2025 at 11:22 PM

TA

“*My sincere condolences to you Dr. Soo and your family for the loss of your beloved wife. Praying for comfort, peace, and strength during this difficult time.*”

Tareka - November 23, 2025 at 11:29 AM

LS

“ I was so saddened to hear of Lavion’s passing. Her obituary beautifully captures the remarkable, full life she lived; one marked by service, adventure, kindness, and an unwavering devotion to family. My mom always spoke of Lavion with such affection and gratitude. She was a true friend to her, someone whose warmth, generosity, and steady support meant more than words can express.

Please know you are in my thoughts during this difficult time. May the many memories of Lavion’s grace, courage, and joyful spirit bring comfort in the days ahead.

Laura Snyder - November 21, 2025 at 06:51 AM

RY

“ Three disparate but revealing memories I have of Lavion. Bumping into her at Five Guys, we were both watching our diets, not necessarily following them; sharing a guilty pleasure. Lighthearted banter regarding Houg’s unlikely but possible purchase of a Corvette and her grace and kindness shown to sister Glenda as her mental and physical health deteriorated. There are other remembrances but those three are glimpses into a good person who lived a good life. She is missed. To Houg, Leslie and extended family our deepest condolences.

Roger and Chris Yates - November 20, 2025 at 04:40 PM