



Richard "Ben" Benjamin Birdsong

Richard Benjamin Birdsong

Passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully, at home on Thursday, May 27, 2021 in Alexandria, VA. He is survived by his beloved wife Charlene Birdsong; brother Bill Birdsong (Gail); brother-in-law Jim Bickings (Mil); sister-in-law Shirley McFerron; nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He is preceded in death by his brother James Hollis (Bette).

Born in Sarasota, Florida to military parents, Ben lived in many places as a child, including Japan. After working on his master's degree in geography at the University of South Florida in Tampa, he enthusiastically accepted a position as a geographer at the U.S. Census Bureau in Suitland, MD. Using his cartographic, geographic, computer, and people skills, he rose to Supervisory IT Specialist and Chief of the Operational Security Branch.

Ben enjoyed doing volunteer work, especially at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. There he worked on projects for the Media and Communications staff, and provided support for several of the Estate's public events.

Ben had a passion for genealogy and photography. As a labor of love, he became his family's historian and documentarian. With his kind, gentle spirit, and servant's heart, Ben brightened the lives of many people. His life of

integrity was evident in his career, family and personal relationships, and through the joy he shared with others. Ben will truly be missed.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr. Alexandria, VA 22315 on Friday, June 4, 2021 from 6 to 8 pm. Funeral Service will be held at Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22150 on Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 10 am. Interment directly following at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suitland, MD. Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to The Koinonia Foundation, Inc. [Click Here \(http://www.koinoniacares.org\)](http://www.koinoniacares.org), ECHO, Inc. [Click Here \(https://www.echo-inc.org\)](https://www.echo-inc.org), or George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate [Click Here \(https://www.mountvernon.org/\)](https://www.mountvernon.org/)

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Springfield United Methodist Church
7407 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22150

Burial

JUN 5. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Hill Cemetery
4111 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suitland, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Ben" Benjamin Birdsong*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *What a sweet man, I'm so sorry for your loss! I used to love to chat with him in the kitchen at work, heating up whatever delicious lunch Charlene had made for him. He was intelligent, kind and also had a great sense of humor. This world lost a kind soul. My prayers are with the family.*

Theresa Bryner

theresa bryner - June 04, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Ben's passing. He was such a gentle soul and a wonderful person to work with. Prayers to the family.*

Gail Leithauser - June 04, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Jeff Schneider purchased the Simply Elegant Sp
athiphyllum for the family of Richard "Ben"
Benjamin Birdsong.*



Jeff Schneider - June 04, 2021 at 08:47 AM

JS

“ Ben was one of the nicest and knowledgeable people I have ever met during my 15+ years at Census. Other others have said, he was happy to share his knowledge and always had caring words to share. One personal note: In February 2006, the Decennial LAN Staff of which I was a member had just gone through a consolidation of support at the Bureau. Ben was given the unenviable task of stepping in as our part time Branch chief because of permanent Branch Chief was out on extended medical leave. He did his best to split his time and knowledge and did so gracefully and without getting flustered even when he had very little knowledge of us or the work we did. Ben will be missed greatly by all who knew him and new God and Heaven have a talented Geographer to map out it's wide expanse.

Jeff Schneider - June 04, 2021 at 08:41 AM

KS

“ Will miss you Ben, a great friend from Census. And Charlene, please accept our deepest sympathy.

Love, Kevin and Linda

Kevin Shaw - June 03, 2021 at 08:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Ben" Benjamin Birdsong.



June 03, 2021 at 01:32 PM

TT

“ Dear Charlene,

Please accept my condolences to you and your extended family for Ben's passing. During his full career, we had many chats about lots of different topics. I always came away from our discussions with greater knowledge coupled with some nugget of humor. Trust and kindness are two characteristics that spring to the forefront in remembering Ben. He showed those who knew him how his knowledge and skills in geography applied to many different facets of our work life. Just as he smiles, I am left with a smile in thinking of him.

*Most sincerely,
Tim Trainor
Laurel, Maryland*

Timothy Trainor - June 03, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard "Ben" Benjamin Birdsong.



June 03, 2021 at 10:56 AM

CL

“ Charlene,

We are so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. His gentle disposition and kindness made it a pleasure working with him. His knowledge of geography and information technology were integral to the mission of the Geography Division for many years.

Praying fond memories will comfort you, your family and Ben's family today and in the future.

With our deepest and heartfelt condolences.

*Carl & Charlene Leggieri
Dana Point, CA*

Carl Leggieri - June 02, 2021 at 01:39 PM

KM

“ Kurt Maier purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Ben" Benjamin Birdsong.



Kurt Maier - June 01, 2021 at 10:02 AM

JB

“ Rest in peace Ben. You will be missed. Sending thoughts and prayers to your family during this time.

Jen Bulvin - May 31, 2021 at 04:50 PM

BJ

“ *Becky Jones purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard "Ben" Benjamin Birdsong.*



Becky Jones - May 31, 2021 at 01:51 PM