



Robert Jacob Baer

August 12, 1924 - February 26, 2011

LTG Robert Jacob Baer, USA (Ret.)

A longtime resident of Fairfax Station, General Baer passed away on February 26, 2011. Robert J. Baer was born in Jamestown, Missouri in 1924, entered the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, in 1944 graduating with the Class of 1947. That same year he married Ann O'Hara who accompanied him on a long and distinguished journey of service to country and community. Ann passed away in 2002. They are survived by their four children, son John and wife Debra of Yorktown, VA, son Tom of Phoenix, AZ, daughter Teresa and husband Stanley of Ft. Myers, FL and son Stephen of New York City. Bob and Ann's legacy lives on through five grandchildren and two great grandsons, all of whom brought him a great deal of joy.

General Baer served his Army and nation proudly for 36 years, first as a LT with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany. In 1952 he returned to staff duty at the Armor Center in Fort Knox, KY. In 1954 he was a Tank Company Commander in the 24th Infantry Division in Japan. In 1958, following graduation from the Command and General Staff College, he returned to West Point as an instructor in Military History. After a brief tour in Korea and graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1963, he commanded 1st Battalion, 66th Armor, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, TX. Graduation from the Army War College in 1967 was followed by two tours of duty in Vietnam culminating with command in combat of the 1st Brigade, 1st

Cavalry Division for which he received numerous commendations including the Silver Star and Distinguished Service Medal.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 1971, his General Officer service is highlighted by his performance as the first Project Manager of the XM1 Main Battle Tank Program that produced the Abrams M1 Tank which continues to prove its superiority in service with many Armies today. Promoted to LTG, he culminated his uniformed service as the Deputy Commanding General for Research and Development, U.S. Army Material Command—supervising eight major R&D commands, 50 project and product managers and a workforce of more than 30, 000. Retiring from the U.S. Army in 1980, he became senior vice president of XMCO Inc—utilizing his program management skills for both government and industry clients.

Since 1988, General Baer has been a private consultant, but his real joy was in spending time with his children, grandchildren, great grandsons, and more recently fiancée Elise and the Haldane family, and many special friends.

A memorial mass will be held on Friday, July 1 at 12:45 pm at the Fort Myer Chapel followed by internment at Arlington National Cemetery and a reception at the Fort Myer's Officers Club. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory, can be made to St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Rd, Springfield, VA 22153.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Jacob Baer*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:23 AM



“ *My inspiration and motivation to join the Army was all because of him, he is and will always be my mentor. SPC Kowalski*

June 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We had the pleasure of meeting General Baer at the closing of our home and know that his beautiful and friendly smile will be missed by all who knew him. We feel quite an honor to take into our hands now what was his home for 30 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as we begin our own family memories in this beautiful home.*

May 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM



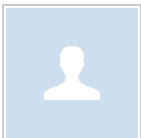
“ *John, he was great patriot and you are a great classmate.*

March 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you and whispered "come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hardworking hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best. You will always be in my heart, Grandpa. I will love you always. Your Granddaughter, Jennifer

March 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We were so very fortunate to live next door to Bob and Ann for nearly 31 years....better neighbors would be impossible to find. Bob was an exceptional gentleman and a dear friend. We will miss him, but will always remember the many happy times shared together. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

March 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our sympathy and prayers are with Bob's family. We know Bob's life will be a continuing inspiration to his family as they face the the difficult days ahead. Bob was very proud of his entire family and was always so happy to spend time with each one of you. We have lost a great man.

March 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My heart goes out to all of you. What an amazing life! You were all blessed to be a part of it.

March 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a wonderful and exceptional man Bob was. It was with great pleasure that I got to spend time with him. He set such an extraordinary example of how to conduct yourself in this world. He will be missed but always remembered.*

March 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Please accept our deepest condolences. He was a man who lived an exceptional life.*

March 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We send our sincere condolences to Gen. Baer's family. He was a very special person and we will miss him. I am very sorry. Sincerely, Laura*

March 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM