



## Kim Arthur Leach

August 24, 1955 - March 24, 2017

Kim Arthur Leach, 61, retired nomad, passed away on Friday, March 24, 2017 in Tallahassee, Florida. Visitation will be held from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at Silha Funeral Home in Wibaux, Montana. A Memorial Service with Military Honors will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, March 31, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wibaux with Reverend Dana Holter officiating. Kim will be laid to rest next to his beloved grandparents, father and brother, near the family farm that he loved as a child, located at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Tioga, North Dakota at a later date. Silha Funeral Home of Wibaux has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Kim was born August 24, 1955 in Williston, North Dakota to Arthur and Muriel (Heen) Leach. Kim grew up in Ray, North Dakota until his junior year of high school. During his life growing up, he spent many summers on the Tioga farm working under his grandparents. Kim gained unforgettable memories and learned many skills while working on the farm. The family moved to Wibaux in 1971, where he enjoyed playing basketball, football and track. Kim graduated from Wibaux County High school with the class of 1973.

During his early years with the Air Force, Kim met Sergeant Kathy Herring and they later married on August 26, 1980. Kim and Kathy welcomed their first daughter, Karen, in 1981. They later welcomed twin girls, Jessie and Casey, in 1989. Kim was an incredible father and loved his girls immensely.

Kim enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1974 to serve his country and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant E-9 on June 30, 2005. His duty

assignments included: Lackland AFB, TX (Basic Training), Keesler AFB, MS (Technical School), U-Tapao AFB, Thailand, Clark AFB, Philippines, Hill AFB, Utah, Kapaun AS, Germany, Lajes AFB, Azores, Shaw AFB, South Carolina, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, Langley AFB, Virginia and MacDill AFB, Florida. He also traveled extensively on temporary duty assignments supporting military and humanitarian operations globally. He was awarded numerous medals and service ribbons in his 32 years of military service to include: Joint Service Commendation, Air Force Commendations, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Southwest Asia Service Medal and several training and personal excellence awards.

Kim continued to serve the United States Air Force and Department of Defense as Military Postal and Official Mail Manager, US Central Command in a Civil Service capacity from July 2005 until July 1, 2015. His responsibilities included all mail operations and logistics to/from/between some of the most austere locations in Southwest Asia, Africa, and Middle East. He was responsible in large part for the deployment planning and execution of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Kim thoroughly enjoyed many activities such as playing basketball, cornhole, shooting, naps, following his brother around Wibaux, riding his motorcycle, watching classic movies, teasing his children and grandchildren, hiking and daily walks with any dog that was willing and able. Kim loved the outdoors, especially camping, and pursued a life "off the grid". Kim was also an avid grandfather and loved spending time with his family. Kim's retirement adventures included traveling the country in his custom camper with motorcycle in tow, along with his canine companion Sadie Bean.

Kim is preceded in death by his brother, Kevin Leach and his father, Arthur Fulton Leach.

Kim is survived by his mother, Muriel Gertrude Livern Leach; his brother, Todd Leach; his sister, Tracey Sunwall; his adult daughters, Karen (Shawn) Inglett, Jessie (Jacob) Reed and Casey (Richard) Padon; his ex-wife, Kathy Marie Herring; his grandchildren, Wren Theoline Inglett and Rigel Lars Inglett;

several nieces, nephews and cousins; his great aunt, Minnie Simard; his uncles, Kermit (Nina) Heen and Willie Panasuk along with his dear friends, Nona Garrett, Dan Bernaiche, Premjit Szelzig and Bob and Pam Eichholz. He is remembered for his crazy and fun humor, contagious laugh, firm shoulder pats and graciousness. With a smile and cheers, we will fondly remember Kim.

Flights may be made to arrive in Bismarck, North Dakota or Billings, Montana. Accommodations can be found at Beaver Creek Inn and Suites in Wibaux at (406) 796-2666 or Buckboard Inn in Beach, North Dakota at (701) 872-4794. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

Tioga, ND

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Wibaux, Montana  
204 South Wibaux Street  
Wibaux, MT 59353  
(406) 796-2421  
silha@midrivers.com

## Service

MAR 31. 10:00 AM (MT)

Trinity Lutheran Church  
123 E Street North  
Wibaux, MT 59353

# Tribute Wall



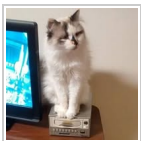
“ *Kim Arthur Leach*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *I first met Kim in 1979, he was my supervisor in the Receipt and Dispatch section of the post office at Clark AB. First thing I learned working for Kim was there was no such thing as a "casual walking pace", still not sure how to classify it, it wasn't walking but it wasn't running, guess it was simply Kim being Kim. All I know is he covered a lot ground in a very short time and if you tried to keep up with him you were worn out come the end of the day. Who in their right mind would find joy unloading a 50ft trailer of mail in 95 degree, 98 percent humidity weather, Kim that's who, he truly loved "Sealand" day. I was blessed having such a wonderful individual as not only my supervisor, and mentor but most of all my friend. I'll always cherish the memories pitching letter mail side by side in R&D, laughing about some "Kimism" until it hurt.*

**Jamie Bowen** - March 31, 2017 at 03:46 PM



“ *To the leach family from the goodale's we send our deepest sympathy and prayers for all of you at this time.*

*love nancy and dovey goodale//*

**Dovey Goodale** - March 30, 2017 at 06:48 PM

JW

“ Reading the obituary and tributes to Kim only confirms what I've known since high school: Kim's always ready to help, join in, laugh, and have fun.

*I'll never forget the unusual method Kim had of doing pushups, and how the basketball coaches tried to get him to move his arms into the "proper" position. Needless to say, the coaches gave up after it was obvious Kim wasn't about to change his way of doing them. I overheard Coach Wayne Beddow saying "Who cares how he does pushups, he's a hell of a ball player". Yes, yes he was...*

*I'm glad I was able to get reacquainted with Kim in the last couple of years. We chatted across the street several times when he was visiting at Todd's house, and talking with him was like a time warp back to high school days - fun to be around and shoot the breeze.*

*To a life well lived and gone too soon...*

*Jim Welsh & family*

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**Jim Welsh** - March 30, 2017 at 06:40 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 30, 2017 at 04:07 PM

“ To family and friends,

*Kim made an everlasting impression with his uncanny ability to make the impossible possible. This is something I will never forget. One of my fondest memories was a time I was visiting from Dubai and he let me stay in his extra room during my visit. We talked business throughout the day and returned to Kim's apartment in the evening. He mentioned he needed to get his workout in, so that evening when we were heading out dinner he suggested we take bikes. I was like what? He says it's not far just 15 minutes to get to the restaurant. Not sure what I was thinking but I played along and said okay let's go. He was happy because he was able to get his workout in as you can imagine. So we headed out and 30 minutes later we arrived at the restaurant. After dinner we stopped by one of Kim's drinking holes. ☐ Before we knew it we were 6 doubles in and we were both feeling pretty good! Markers Mark for Kim and Gin and Tonic for me. Time was slipping by and we need to start heading back. Now the challenge to navigate our way back on bikes! I remember thinking to myself this is not good and right about that time Kim said I know another bar close to the apartment we can get a night cap. So off we go! On our ride back we came to an area where the street car tracks are in the road and wouldn't you know it Kim got right into one of the rails. I suggested to him to stop and take the bike out but he said I got this! He sure did all the way to the end of the rail when he flipped over onto to his back. What a sight to see as he summersaults across the air. I rushed over with others on the street to help him. I said are you okay? He said that really hurt☐. Of course I was laughing because it's a once in a lifetime event to see something like this in person. I helped him up and what's the first thing he says. How do I look? I responded great except for the track mark down the back of your yellow shirt. He started laughing really hard and then he said now I really need another drink. Let's go!*

*Great memory and one I will carry with me the rest of my life. Kim will be missed by many of us but it's our memories of him that will*

*keep him in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Great man and friend!*

*John Acosta*

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**John Acosta** - March 30, 2017 at 10:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.*



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March 29, 2017 at 11:22 PM

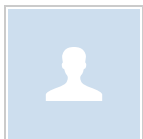


“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.*



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March 29, 2017 at 09:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.*



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March 29, 2017 at 08:56 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 29, 2017 at 03:36 PM



“ *Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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**Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron** - March 29, 2017 at 03:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.

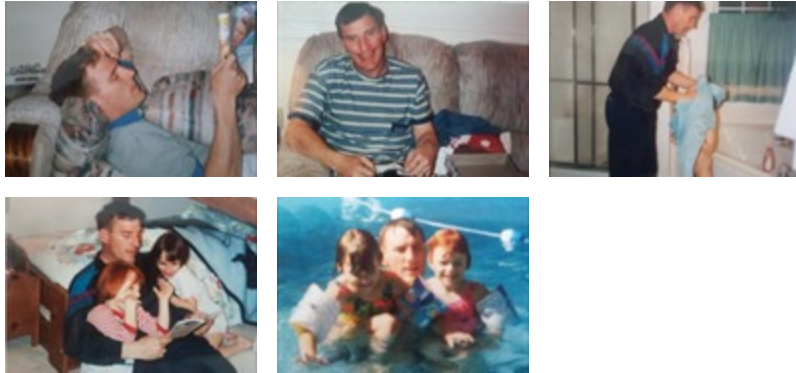


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March 29, 2017 at 02:55 PM

KH

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Kathy Herring - March 29, 2017 at 01:11 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of *Kim Arthur Leach*.



March 29, 2017 at 11:11 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Kim Arthur Leach*.



March 29, 2017 at 09:16 AM

DP

“ Dick and Jerri Padon purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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Dick and Jerri Padon - March 28, 2017 at 10:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 28, 2017 at 09:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 28, 2017 at 08:49 PM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 28, 2017 at 02:21 PM

PW

“ I was lucky and fortunate to have Kim as my boss 2000 - 2001. Had heard the name in our AF postal community many times over the years but never met him in person. He was a freshly pinned E9 Chief Master Sergeant but wearing the stripes like he had been a Chief the past 20 years ... you would have thought so if you didn't know the truth. I was a newly pinned E8 Senior Master Sergeant, thought I knew my stuff but didn't know squat. In that short year I learned a ton from Kim and he imparted those lessons in ways that made you feel lucky he was there, in that time, teaching and preparing you for bigger and better things as an AF leader. We hooked up again when I was at AFCENT and he was at CENTCOM and the lessons continued. He was more than a special guy, he was one of a kind and he knew only one way ... forward. We know he's in heaven because Kim never had a harsh word about anyone and tried to help everyone. He will be greatly missed and my sincerest condolences to the family.

*Phil Weaver*

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**Phil Weaver** - March 28, 2017 at 02:04 PM

KI

“Press on” he did always have that forward movement Phil. Thank you for sharing. Dad never took “no” for an answer, in fact I think he thrived off finding ways around those “nos”.

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**Karen Inglett** - March 28, 2017 at 06:59 PM

KR

“ Mr. Leach was quite the character and fun to have in the office at USCENTCOM. His sense of humor always made us laugh and kept the morale up when we need it. Sending you my condolences, Kim Raines, MacDill AFB, FL

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**Kim Raines** - March 28, 2017 at 07:43 AM

AW

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Kim but if he was anything like his brother's, Kevin & Todd, he must have been a pretty special guy. Sending your family much love!

Arnell Wagner - March 28, 2017 at 02:39 AM



“ Where do I begin? Kim Leach, you will certainly be missed. God must have needed another basketball player on his team up there in Heaven. I for one am soooooo proud of your Air Force career, plus your Civil Service career. Having been a former Air Force dependent wife myself I know about traveling. You really did see the world. Thank you for your service to your country, Kim. I salute you, dear Veteran. God Bless You. Today I send my Love, Thoughts, Prayers, and Hugs to your precious family. Dear Lord in Heaven please give them the added Strength, and Comfort they need this week and in the days ahead. May they cherish the wonderful memories they made with you. May they remember your humor, laughter, and that twinkle in your eye. My guess is that you were tough on the outside, but a "teddy bear" on the inside. Family was so very important, and I just know Kim that you loved them with all your heart. Now off you go into the wild Blue Yonder. I know God will take good care of you, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." Rest in Peace, Kim Leach. Much Love from your old Babysitter, Neighbor and Friend. Linda (Davidson) Wooters



Linda Wooters - March 28, 2017 at 01:17 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 27, 2017 at 10:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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March 27, 2017 at 08:48 PM



“ *Michael Gasque and Family* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



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**Michael Gasque and Family** - March 27, 2017 at 08:22 PM

MG

“ My family and I would like to send our most sincere condolences to Kim's entire family. Learning of Kim's passing was such a shock to me. I have known and worked with Kim since 1980 when we were originally in the Philippines. I also had the privilege of working for Kim at Shaw AFB SC from 1996-1999 and we continued to work together until his recent retirement. Kim was a great mentor to me and I will forever be so grateful; not to mention one of the smartest people I have ever met. I can still remember the time we were on duty in Cairo Egypt together sharing a room and I would hear something stirring in the middle of the night and it would be Kim; up before the sun and making coffee. Such a great guy who left us all too soon!!!

*Mike and Cinthya Gasque  
Lexington, South Carolina*

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**Mike Gasque** - March 27, 2017 at 07:11 PM

HS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Halie Simmons** - March 27, 2017 at 06:04 PM

KI

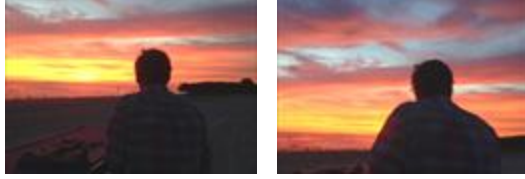
*Thank you Halie, I appreciate it cousin. It's nice to see Dad showing off his cornhole throwing skills, he was pretty proud of them.*

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**Karen Inglett** - March 28, 2017 at 07:01 PM

CP

“ A photo shared from his close friend Prem. Dad looking at the sunset. Very special.



Casey Padon - March 27, 2017 at 04:06 PM

MW

“ Mrs. Virginia Waller purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kim Arthur Leach.



Mrs. Virginia Waller - March 27, 2017 at 02:52 PM

KH

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Kathy Leach Herring - March 27, 2017 at 02:06 PM

LA

“ To Kim's family, my prayers and thoughts go out to you for your loss. I can't help to think though, that Kim has found the prettiest cloud, pitched a tent, cracked open a cool one and is sitting under a rainbow enjoying the view. He was a good man and he made the world special. God Bless. Lou

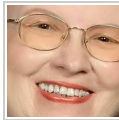


Lou Armagno - March 27, 2017 at 01:04 PM

KI

Thank you Lou, that is a beautiful image.

Karen Inglett - March 27, 2017 at 04:36 PM



I totally agree. Glad you shared that, Lou.

Linda Wooters - April 01, 2017 at 12:51 AM

JK

“ Chief Leach was my first impression of a Senior NCO in my AF career. I was an E2 sitting in the PAX terminal at Lajes Field, Azores in Feb 1989. It was 5:00 AM and I was the only person left in the terminal. The SP called the Post Office for me and Kim responded in his beat up VW Bug. I was sitting at the far wall and he marched across the floor in my direction like he always did, stomping his feet and with speed. Scared the hell out of me. There couldn't have been cooler person in that situation. We packed my stuff in the Bug and he drove me to the Post Office. I was clueless to what was going on, but he took care of everything. He ALWAYS took care of everything. I'll miss you Chief.  
Jim King

Jim King - March 27, 2017 at 08:52 AM

CP

*Great story, perfect description of him. Yes he always did take care of everything and everyone. Thank you for sharing Jim.*

**Casey Padon** - March 27, 2017 at 03:50 PM

KI

*I remember that VW Bug, thank you Jim for sharing that memory.*

**Karen Inglett** - March 27, 2017 at 04:38 PM

MD

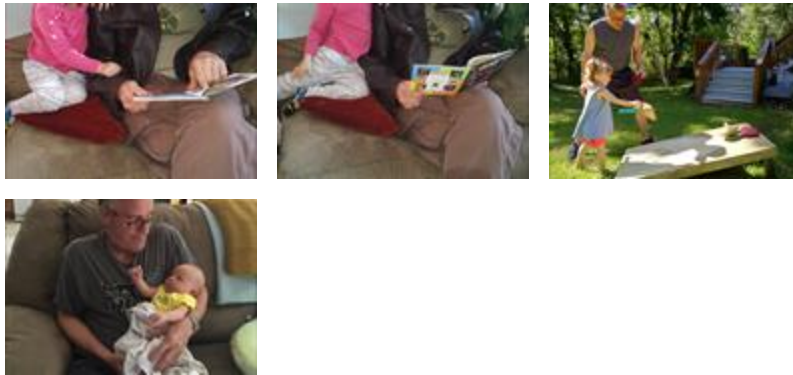
“ *Mearl DeTienne lit a candle in memory of Kim Arthur Leach*



**Mearl DeTienne** - March 26, 2017 at 08:16 PM

KI

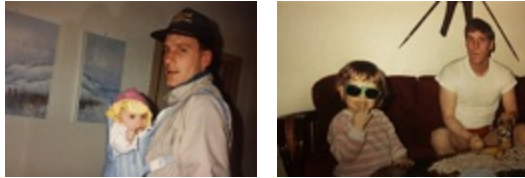
“ *Grandpa .... "Mean" Grandpa, but not really.*



**Karen Inglett** - March 26, 2017 at 06:50 PM

KI

“ *Dad*



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**Karen Inglett** - March 26, 2017 at 06:48 PM

VG

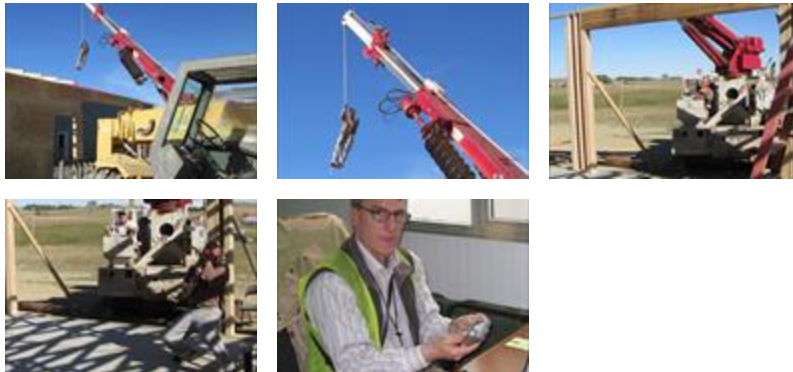
“ *On behalf of the Navy family, our deepest condolences. RIP friend!*

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**Victor Gonzalez** - March 26, 2017 at 04:42 PM

KI

“ *All work and no play, but definitely time for some naps, maybe a little play as long as there were rules to break.*



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**Karen Inglett** - March 26, 2017 at 05:48 AM

KI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Karen Inglett** - March 26, 2017 at 05:46 AM

KI

“ Here are some images from Kim's daughters, Karen and Casey.



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**Karen Inglett** - March 26, 2017 at 05:43 AM