



## Russell Leon Cavender

December 16, 2024

Russell Leon Cavender, 83, of Woodbridge, VA, peacefully passed away in the Lord on December 16, 2024, at his home.

Russell was born on April 10, 1941, in Charleston, WV, to Charles and Nona Summers Cavender. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps for 28 years, retiring in 1988 with the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. A decorated veteran, Russ completed three tours in Vietnam, where he earned two Purple Hearts for his bravery and service. Russ saved many lives during his time in service and was regarded as a hero.

Outside of his military career, Russ was an avid outdoorsman with a deep love for hunting, fishing, boating, and training bird dogs. He had a special bond with his dogs and cherished the time spent with them.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and three sisters, making him the last surviving member of his generation in the Cavender family. He will be greatly missed by his beloved wife, Tanya, with whom he shared 44 years of marriage. Russ is also survived by his children: Tricia (Mike) Duffee of Austin, TX, Russell (Christine) Cavender II of Myrtle Beach, SC, Stephen (Marianna) Lilley II of Waynesboro, VA, Melissa (Matt) Pollock of Falcon, CO, and Shannon (Jen) Lilley of Christiansburg, VA. He leaves behind 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, who brought him immense joy.

Russ enjoyed many deep friendships throughout his life, including those made at VFW Post 1503, and he will be remembered fondly by a wide circle of family and friends. His legacy of service, love, and kindness will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

Visitation will be Thursday, Jan 2, from 4-7pm at Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd, Woodbridge, VA.

The Service is scheduled Jan 3, at 10:30am at Miller Funeral Home Chapel with the burial immediately following the service at 12:30pm at Quantico National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at [stjude.org](http://stjude.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.  
3200 Golansky Blvd.  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-878-CARE (2273)  
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

## Service

JAN 3. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.  
3200 Golansky Blvd.  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-878-CARE (2273)  
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

## Graveside Service

JAN 3. 12:30 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery  
18424 Joplin Rd  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Tribute Wall

L(

“ LTC Kurt Hovanec (retired) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Russell Leon Cavender.



LTC Kurt Hovanec (retired) - January 02, 2025 at 03:48 PM

MK

“ From: Marina and Vladimir Kondratovich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Russell Leon Cavender.

Marina and Vladimir Kondratovich - January 02, 2025 at 02:55 PM

MK

“ Marina and Vladimir Kondratovich purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Russell Leon Cavender.



Marina and Vladimir Kondratovich - January 02, 2025 at 02:55 PM

RL

“ Please accept our condolences. "Top" Cavender was a nice man who always had a smile for everyone. We will keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Ricky Kay & Dale F. Longfellow - December 30, 2024 at 02:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Russell Leon Cavender.

December 27, 2024 at 08:59 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Russell Leon Cavender.



December 27, 2024 at 08:59 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Russ’s passing, he was a great man with many great stories and awesome knowledge to boot. He will be missed dearly.

**Sal Russo** - December 27, 2024 at 08:57 PM



“ Tanya, our sincerest condolences. Russ was certainly very much loved, and Lord knows he was the toughest guy we ever knew. We know you are comforted to know he is no longer in pain. We send you our love and prayers for peace and comfort for you and the family.

**Vicki Tungate** - December 27, 2024 at 06:33 PM



“ My heart goes out to the family Russ was an amazing man! I will never forget you

**CHRISTINA** - December 27, 2024 at 01:13 PM

RY

“ Ryan purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Russell Leon Cavender.



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**Ryan** - December 27, 2024 at 08:32 AM