



# Timothy Lee Bearden

JUN 25, 1957 - MAR 12, 2026



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# Timothy Lee Bearden

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**T**imothy Lee Bearden, 68, of Tampa, Florida, passed away on March 12, 2026, in Gadsden, Alabama.

Born in Alabama, to Maddie Alene Chapman and Hilton Leon Bearden on June 25, 1957.

Tim proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force.

After his service, he began a 20 plus year career as a Civil service employee, he later retired and spent his years enjoying time with family and friends. His dedication to his country and the memories he created with those around him will always be remembered.

Tim is survived by his daughter, Carrie Sapia (David); his step-daughter Denise Mealy; his beloved grandchildren, Kyle Fisher, Katey Fischer, Alexander Wilson, Cody Didio, Devin Weyand, and his great-grandchild, Riley Call.

He is also survived by his brother, Leon Bearden, and his sister Marsha Cochran along with cousins and nieces and nephews.

Tim will be remembered by his family and friends for the memories they shared together and the lasting impression he made on those who knew him. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved him, he will be deeply missed.



## Tribute Wall

**Timothy Lee Bearden**

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RD

**Ray Devault** posted:

MSgt Bearden while at JCSE was part of the lead tactical communications package for Desert Shield. JCSE was supposed to be used no more than 90 days (I think that's the number). Then Desert Shield became Desert Storm. Tim's team's comm support was so good they weren't allowed to leave. The conventional service's tactical comm packages couldn't provide the same level of support. Even when they were eventually released, most (all?) of the equipment had to stay. It was "too" good and too important to let go. Tim's team's maintenance and setup.

March 20 at 6:48 AM

RD

**Ray Devault** posted:

Tim shared this from when he was assigned to the Joint Chiefs Support Element (JCSE), at MacDill. Bare in mind JCSE is only tasked directly from the Joint Chiefs, not Theater Commands, not Combatant Commands. He planned the equipment and personnel, as lead for one mission that literally was in the dark of night. They and their tactical comm equipment were dropped on a hilltop somewhere tropical and hot.....at night. Left three days with the supplies that they had (which Tim planned) and extracted at night. Not an action novel story, actual no ID, "you don't need to know" mission.

March 20 at 6:32 AM

RD

**Ray Devault** posted:

1997 when I got to the SOCOM (4 star) headquarters, my sponsor introduced me around to J6/Communications important people to know. Not Generals or Colonels, to people that get things done. USAF Master Sergeant Tim Bearden, NCOIC of Networks (Shop). Tim, a TSgt and one contractor were the whole "shop". Under Tim's leadership they were cabling and network equipment design, installation and maintenance of two separate (parallel) networks. Getting it done!

March 20 at 6:14 AM

JD

**James D.** planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Timothy.



March 14 at 11:53 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Timothy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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