



Bear Jarman

MAR 22, 1959 - APR 8, 2026



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Bear Jarman

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Donald "Bear" Paul Jarman Jr., 67 passed away Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines, IA.

Donald was born on March 22, 1959 to Donald Sr. and Mildred (Fox) Jarman in Dover, Delaware.

After Donald graduated, he joined the Coast Guard where he met the love of his life, Marilyn Hickman and to this union, they welcomed their daughter Kati. He served his country faithfully for 15 years before being honorably discharged, and moving back to southern Iowa with Marilyn. After his time in the service, Bear spent time working for the local Veterans Affairs, handling numerous different jobs, he retired from there after 15 years.

Music was a main passion for Bear, he was a true percussionist at heart. He lived to play the drums, can could turn anything into a set of drumsticks. Time with his family was very important to him, especially joking with his wife and making her laugh. Bear could light up any room with his jokes, and loved to make people's day better.

Bear is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughter, Kati (Michael) Thomas; grandchildren, Ethan Allison, Isaac Allison, Braydon Thomas, Tristan Thomas, Isabella Thomas; mother, Mildred Jarman; brother, Mark Jarman and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Jarman Sr.; brother, Fred Jarman and in-laws, Gerald and Ellen Hickman.

Visitation will take place of Friday, April 10, 2026 from 6:00PM-8:00PM at Thomas Funeral Home in Corydon. Cremation will take place after the visitation, and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials have been established to Wayne County Veterans Affairs, and can



Obituary

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be mailed to Thomas Funeral Home ATTN: Jarman Family, 303 E. Jefferson Street, Corydon, Iowa 50060.






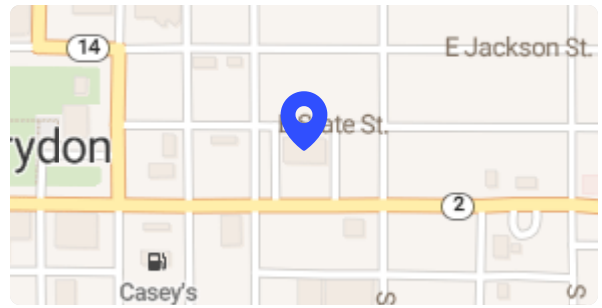
Events

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Visitation

-  **Friday**, April 10, 2026
-  6:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
-  **Thomas Funeral Home-Corydon**
303 E Jefferson St, Corydon IA 50060





Tribute Wall

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Brion Fitzgerald posted:

I was proud to serve with Bear at USCG Group Eastern Shore in Chincoteague, Va. When I reported to Group E/S as a new Ensign on the Reserve Unit team Bear suggested that I stand break-in watch as a Command Duty Officer. He introduced me to the Group Deputy and we got things rolling. With Bear's help - I stood the watch and became qualified as a CDO. He and Marilyn were a fantastic team and such fantastic representatives of all the best that the Coast Guard stands for. Fair winds and following seas Bear. Love and condolences to Marilyn, Kati and the rest of the family. Brion FitzGerald, Captain, USCGR (ret.)

April 15 at 7:09 AM



Brad Bonds posted:

Rest in eternal peace, shipmate. May the wind be ever at your back. Fair weather, following seas, and Godspeed.

April 10 at 9:58 PM



Tom Kellum posted:

I was in the Coast Guard with Bear and you couldn't ask for a better ship mate! Always gung-ho to get the job done, and would help you out in any way. We commissioned the Cutter Legare and what a hard job but very rewarding with great shipmates like Bear he will be missed. Tom Kellum

April 9 at 8:04 PM



Jarman Family sent a Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket to the Jarman family.



April 9 at 5:59 PM



Jarman Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.



April 9 at 5:59 PM



Tribute Wall

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Melonie Jarman sent a Healing Tears - Yellow and White to the Jarman family.



April 9 at 5:33 PM



Melonie Jarman planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.



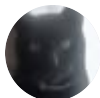
April 9 at 5:33 PM



Veb Brown lit a candle in honor of Donald.



April 9 at 4:49 PM



Veb Brown posted:

Bear played Santa Clause on my 16 yrs old son. He knocked on my door dressed as Santa and delivered Darnell a bike! (Santa)Bear disappeared I. The snow, no snow tracks at all! Darnel was in shock! He looked at me and asked "Ma was that really Santa! I laughed so hard and never told him it wasn't. His little elf Kati filled Bear's tracks! Bear I Miss And Love You. Thanks for the memories, you are always going to be missed in my heart. Stay strong Marilyn and Katie, my prayers are with you.

April 9 at 4:49 PM



The Smiros Family sent a Peaceful Wishes to the Jarman family.



April 9 at 6:13 AM



Tribute Wall

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Matthew Vetera posted:

Where do I even start with this man? Not enough room to even cover a third of what we got into and besides no one would ever possibly believe the shenanigan's we always seemed to find ourselves surrounded by. His absence leaves a quiet space that words can never fully fill, but Bear's kindness, laughter, and unwavering friendship will remain with us always. Those memories, that precious time we shared, will continue to bring comfort in the days ahead. The love he gave and the lives he touched will never fade.

April 8 at 9:25 PM



Anonymous sent a Healing Tears - Yellow and White to the Jarman family.



April 8 at 9:12 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.



April 8 at 8:51 PM



Cindy Sheppard posted:

Bear I am so sorry to hear of your passing. The time we spent working together at MSC is full of more memories than can be written on one page. The one thing that stands out is your joy for life and the kindness you showed to everyone who had the privilege of knowing you. We were blessed to share that short sliver of time with you and I will forever be grateful. Rest well my friend, see you again one day. To your precious family...Marilyn and Katie...there are no words of comfort for your loss. But please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and that both you and Bear will forever be in our hearts.

April 8 at 6:44 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.



April 8 at 6:30 PM



Tribute Wall

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Ss3 M. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.



April 8 at 6:15 PM



Camille Cowher Watson sent a virtual gift in honor of Donald.

Bear and I served on the USCGC Legare back in the early 1990's together. He was like a big brother on our ship. Always kind, ready with advice, and funny. It was an honor and a pleasure to know him. Rest in peace Shipmate. 🙏



April 8 at 6:09 PM



Michael Huyck shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

BM Bear Jarman, its very sad to hear of your Passing. I haven't seen you in 35+ yrs but i remember you and your wonderful will power to always push the crew of the Legare to be the Best. You are going to be missed by your family from the USCGC Legare and friends through out the Coast guard. Fair Winds and hope to run across you in Heaven one day.Semper Paratus Brother



April 8 at 5:24 PM



Dawn Thomas posted:

Bear was a wonderful man. He was like a father to me, he was my mentor and a great friend. He would always make me laugh and his smile was genuine and touched my heart. He was always there if I needed a hug, even if I didnt realize I needed one, he did. Bear will always be family and greatly missed. I love you Bear

April 8 at 5:58 PM



Michael Thomas posted:

Serving with him on the USCGC Legare WMEC 912. Always smiling and bringing smiles to other's faces. Pushing his crew to be the best. An all around great shipmate and friend!

April 8 at 5:24 PM



Michael Huyck shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 8 at 6:00 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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