



Alton Monroe Carter

June 19, 1941 - December 19, 2020

In Loving Memory of
ALTON MONROE CARTER

Alton M. Carter, known to most as Al, died December 19th, 2020 at the age of 79, at Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa, AZ. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Barbara, brother Harold, son Jonathan (Sue), daughter Amy (Ron), and two grandsons, Ethan and Seth, as well as his beloved dog, Mandy.

Al was born in Corry, Pennsylvania in 1941, but his family moved to Arizona when he was a young child. From the beautiful Sonoran desert to the cool pines of the Mogollon Rim, Al loved Arizona and always considered it "Home."

Proudly serving in the US Army, Al was stationed in Germany for two years, where he met his wife, Barbara. He carried fond memories of the friends he made and the experiences he had while overseas, and would eagerly share his humorous stories with all who would listen!

Hard work was a cornerstone of Al's life, beginning with his first job making Hoola Hoops at age 14, to help support his family. From the age of 16, Al began working in restaurants, doing everything from busboy, to cook, to waiter. His strong work ethic eventually led him to years of restaurant management. Important to Al were the many young people who were hired by him for their first job; these youths often returned over the years to thank him for his influence on their lives.

Al became well-known to local residents at Bill Johnson's Big Apple where he managed the Mesa location for over two decades, until his retirement in 2001. Many of Al's customers came in regularly just to visit with him, including winter visitors who returned year after year.

In his retirement, Al remained active, pursuing a variety of interests, including drawing and painting, as well as gardening. But he was probably happiest in the kitchen, cooking for

family and friends...anyone, any time.

The overarching theme of Al's life was friendship. He loved to make others laugh, and looked for opportunities to do so. One friend of 59 years, Don Kalfas, recounted a favorite memory of their crew meeting at a coffee shop after work just to tell jokes. He shared that together they "drove a million miles, and laughed a million laughs." A friend to everyone, Al epitomized the quote by Will Rogers: "A stranger is just a friend I haven't met yet." This made him a natural as a greeter at church, welcoming newcomers and friends as they arrived.

Al brought joy to all who were fortunate to know him. He will be remembered for his kindness, his "punny" sense of humor, and his work ethic, all of which were an inspiration to so many. He was well loved, and he loved well...and will forever be missed.

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Private services were held Monday, December 28th, 2020 at National Cemetery of Arizona. A joyful celebration of Al's life will be held on April 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Without Walls Church in Mesa, Arizona. Details and time will be posted on this website in the near future.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Patriot Paws. "The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence."

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs

254 Ranch Trail

Rockwall, TX 75032

To learn more: <https://patriotpaws.org> The link to donate is: <https://patriotpaws.org/donate/>

# Cemetery

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## National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

23029 N Cave Creek Rd  
Phoenix, AZ, 85024

# Events

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**DEC 28** **Graveside** 09:00AM

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National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona  
23029 N Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ, US,  
85024

# Comments

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“ My husband (Ken) and I met Al and Barbara at With Out Walls church where we both attended. He and Ken became good buddies. After a time of illness Ken passed and now Al has joined him. I always enjoyed talking with Al in the foyer or patio of the church building. He would tell me stories of his restaurant days or just growing up days. Once he told me about a restaurant where he managed. He said it often had leaks in the pipes in the kitchen and he would always stop the leaks with duct tape. After he left that restaurant the owner found all the trouble Al had saved him from and he told Al he should have paid him better. As always happens I wish we had made time to get together and visit more often. His memory will live on in our hearts. Love you Barbara.  
Rachel Sharp

Rachel Sharp - March 16 at 04:59 PM

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“ Al was always such a sweet man. He always lit up and had such a kind smile when I saw him! He was such a good friend to my dad...they even were hospital buddies as they were there at the same time. :) Now they are in Heaven together fishing after meeting for coffee :)  
Love you both!!

Tabitha Sharp - January 09 at 10:51 PM

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“ It was a great joy to fellowship with Al and Barb on many occasions at Rick and Jane's house (my brother and sister-in-law). Al's culinary skills and especially the great stories from his days in the Service and hospitality career kept us rolling in the aisles! His gentle demeanor with a hint of sarcastic reality was deeply appreciated by all of us. His faith in Jesus was clearly evident, and we'll miss him dearly..just for a little while though. I'm confident that Al is cooking steaks on the grill in Glory and entertaining everyone around him just as we remember. See you in a bit Al! Love you Barb. God Bless!

Rob German - January 06 at 04:06 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Rick German** - January 01 at 02:50 PM



“ Wonderful memories with this beautiful couple

**Rick German** - January 01 at 02:52 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album At the Germans Home



**Rick German** - January 01 at 02:15 PM

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“ So many wonderful memories of my dear friend, Al, since I met him in 1961. His sense of humor, his laugh, his awesome singing and his hard-work ethic. Most dedicated Big Apple team member I ever worked with. You are special, Al. R.I.P..

**Don Kalfas** - December 27, 2020 at 07:58 PM



“ He was the best boss I ever had. Met Al in 1988. He was funny, kind, and just an all around great man. Was a joy to be around. All of us girls love the man. You will be missed. RIP my friend.

**Loretta Dallas** - January 01 at 02:13 PM



“ Al always brought joy and laughter to our home. No one could tell a good joke or a funny story like Al. He never ended a phone call or a visit without saying “ I love you.” He was a true friend and is greatly missed.

**Rick German** - January 01 at 02:43 PM