



## Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr.

April 13, 1954 - March 16, 2021

Sergeant Major Alvin (Al) S. Athey Jr, USMC, Retired, a long-time resident of Centreville, MD, passed away on March 16th, 2021 in his home. He was born in Annapolis, MD on April 13, 1954 to the late Alvin S. Athey, Sr. and Hazel Brady.

Al enjoyed boating, seasonal fishing and crabbing, and water sports. He also had a love for dogs, especially his current pups Kona & Lucy, and preceding pets. His passion for vegetable gardening yielded the fruits of his labor which he enjoyed sharing with his family, neighbors, and co-workers. His love for the water and classic cars brought him much joy during his lifetime.

Al was an active member of the Marine Corps League (Sergeant Jason D. Mileo Detachment) since its Charter in 2003. He was the League's first elected Commandant, holding the position for 3 years. He served in various staff officer positions thereafter. Al volunteered endless hours to the League's annual events including the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, Turkey Shoot, Car Wash, and the Toys for Tots program of Centreville. In addition, he served as one of the Detachments 6 color guard members performing in numerous parades and Memorial Day events as well as the communities Annual Christmas Parade. Al was a Life Member of the American Legion (Jeff Davis Post).

The Sergeant Major served in the United States Marine Corps for over 29 years from 1973 to 2002, achieving the highest enlisted rank. His multiple tour locations before retiring from Recruiting Station Baltimore led him to Camp Lejeune, NC; San Jose, CA; Okinawa, Japan; Macon, GA; Kaneohe Bay, HI, and Annapolis, MD. He earned numerous service ribbons, medals, commendations, citations, and badges during his career. After retirement from the United States Marine Corps, he entered civilian federal service at the United States Naval Academy under Naval District Washington Police Department in November 2003. He achieved the rank of Sergeant and awarded the Chief's Award for Excellence before retiring in April 2015.

Al is survived by his loving wife, Teri of Centreville, his daughter Andria (Erin) McCormack

of Ocean City, MD, his son Bryan (Carleigh) of Berlin, MD, his six grandchildren Ethan, Michael, Matthew, Anna, Fiona, and Winnie. He is also survived by his sister, Gloria Myers of Ocala, Florida, and several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. Alvin was greatly loved by most and will be missed beyond words.

A visitation for Al will be held on Saturday, March 27th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a service directly following at 1:00 p.m. taking place at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home 408 S Liberty Street Centreville, MD 21617.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Al, donations can be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 or <http://www.cbf.org> .

# Events

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**MAR**   **Visitation**                    11:00AM - 01:00PM

**27**

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Centreville Location

408 South Liberty St., Centreville, MD, US, 21617

**MAR**   **Service**                            01:00PM

**27**

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Centreville Location

408 South Liberty St., Centreville, MD, US, 21617

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - March 27 at 01:00 PM



“ Semper Fi Brother... Doug

**Doug Carlyle** - July 11 at 10:56 AM



“ A tribute video has been added.



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - March 24 at 04:55 PM



“ He was my boss in Macon, Ga..he was Outstanding.. Semper FI Al/

**Doug Carlyle** - July 11 at 10:51 AM



“ Phillip Castle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr.



**Phillip Castle** - May 21 at 09:56 AM



“ Teri, Andria and Bryan, so sorry for your loss. Warmest condolences to you and the family. I served with Al at MARMTU, San Jose, CA from 1975-'77. He and I, being close in age, were very good buddies. He was in Supply and I was in Admin. A great Marine and a great man. I know he will be missed. Way too young to leave this earth. Semper Fi Al, and may you Rest In Peace. Grace to you and yours, Phillip Castle, SSgt. USMC, 1974-'82.

**Phillip Castle** - May 21 at 09:54 AM

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“ So sorry for your lost. I met Alvin in 1966 and came to know his family. Going to the bowling alley and on the boat with them many times. The short time I was in Annapolis after our house burned to the ground. The Athey's were a bright light in what started as a dark year. So glad our paths crossed then. Rest in peace my friend. Tom

**Dale T Jones** - April 04 at 02:46 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - March 29 at 09:18 AM

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“ He was a pleasure to be around when I was working there, one of the nicest guys I've ever known. You will be missed.



**Fred Wm. Roth** - March 28 at 08:47 AM



“ Al, it was a great pleasure working side-by-side with you as a "brother-in-red." You are truly one of the nicest guys I've known, and you will be missed.

**J. Roth** - March 28 at 08:44 AM

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“ My most sincere Sympathy and Condolences to the Athey family.

Al, a great leader, teacher, co-worker and friend. “ Rest In Peace”

Jake

**J.M. Hale** - March 27 at 10:08 AM

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“ Very fond memories of Al since we first met in second grade. Went all the way through public school together and we served as volunteer firefighters at WaterWitch Hook & Ladder before he headed off to the Marines. A great man and a dear beloved friend who I appreciate having touched my life. Rest In Peace my friend, you will be sorely missed! Mark W. Howes

**Mark W. Howes** - March 27 at 09:23 AM

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 26 at 11:21 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 26 at 12:57 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 25 at 09:40 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 25 at 10:16 AM

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“ 16 MARCH 2021

The world lost a good man,

The Country lost a great Marine,

Teri, Andria, Bryan and family lost a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, and

We lost a best friend.

Rest easy my brother you completed your tour in an exemplary manner, mentoring young Marines, training young police officers and raising a beautiful family. You were a great friend and will live in our hearts forever.

Until we meet again...

Ed and Bonnie Smith

**William Smith** - March 24 at 05:02 PM

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“ AI was the first Marine we knew from our beloved Jason D. Mileo Marine Corps League. He invited us to join this wonderful group about 10 years ago as Associate Members, and thanks to him, we became proud members and dear friends of all in this MCL group.

We will miss him every single day and will be eternally grateful for his service to our country and for his friendship. Rest in Peace, dear Marine! Semper Fi!

Bob and Gladys Rodriguez

**Gladys Ileana Rodriguez** - March 24 at 02:15 PM

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“ Al will be remembered for so many different reasons and by people from all walks of life, which is a great reflection of who he was. We all know, he was a great friend that would have your back and would always lend an ear should you need to talk. One thing I loved most about talking with Al was how highly and lovingly he spoke of his wife Teri. He never missed a chance to put her high on a pedestal, or share how she made him and his life better. He always seemed so proud to share a picture of them together, which always made me happy to see. (Attached the last one he sent me of them together). I have no doubt he will forever be by her side. Thank you Al for simply being you!  
Rest In Peace, my Brother in Blue.



Kelly Brierly - March 23 at 01:46 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 23 at 12:58 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 22 at 01:35 PM

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“ Charleen Nichols lit a candle in memory of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr.



Charleen Nichols - March 21 at 10:33 PM

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“ What can I say about Al that his family, friends and coworkers and of course his brothers he served with dosen't already know about Al. I met Al when he started working at the Naval Academy. I was a dispatcher for the both the Fire & Police department. I will never forget how I first met Al. With Al being in the Police department & me dispatching the Police he came into the dispatch center to introduce his self to the dispatchers on duty. Fortunately I was lucky enough to be on duty. As I was introducing myself, Al asked me Al asked me where I was from. When I said right here in Maryland, he said to me, you have some type of accent. Well when I told him thats the Eastport slang, OMG he looked at in a funny way and said, What? Come to find out he was from Annapolis (which Eastport is in Annapolis) we knew a lot of the same people. In fact another man from Eastport serviced in the in the Marine Corps with him and his name was Eddie who was the older brother of my BFF back from about 1974 to the late 70's maybe longer. From that point on I considered Al as dear friend and after meeting his not only lovely & beautiful, she was from Eastport too and I confirm Terri a dear friend too. As stated in Als obituary about how Al love to garden and he would bring big buckets full of all kinds of vegetables to work and tell everyone help yourselves just make you leave some for everyone. I couldn't wait for the Bull & Oyster roast to come around every April so I would see All, Terri and even a dispatcher I worked with, Buddy & his lovely wife Karen. My heart goes out to his daughter and son. And of course to his wife loving wife Terri too. I know life will never be the same for Terri but she's going get through this because Terri is a wife of a Marine.

With the highest respect,  
Charleen

Charleen Nichols - March 21 at 10:28 PM

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“ Al and I started calling each other "Vern" when we first met as instructors at MCSSS In the mid 1980s. As we were both professional Marines, family men, and had the same interests, we quickly became good friends. We enjoyed fishing, the Atlanta Braves, playing poker, and drinking beers. We had the good fortune of getting a three year accompanied tour to Okinawa, Japan where our families bonded and became one. We celebrated all of the major and minor holidays together, went to the beaches and camping, toured the island, went to festivals, and sometimes just kicked back and enjoy each others company over a drink and a meal. Most memorable was the good times on the bowling league and "no tap" tournaments which occurred almost weekly. RIP my brother from another mother. Until we meet again.

J. D. "Vern" Barto III - March 21 at 08:36 PM

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“ I first met Al many years ago when he was trying to obtain a job with the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office by doing ride-alongs with me. Al and I were also founding members of the Centreville Marine Corps League Detachment. We have been friends ever since. Al and I also discovered that we served together (didn't know it at that time) in the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune. I have much respect for Al as he was such an outstanding Marine and Friend. I will miss him as I'm sure everyone else who knew him will also. Sergeant Major may God Bless you and grant you eternal rest. I know you will be guarding those pearly gates until we all arrive home with you.

Semper Fi!!

Mark Meil



Mark - March 21 at 12:43 PM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 20 at 12:20 PM



“ Susan and I send out our heartfelt condolences to Teri, Andria, Bryan, and ALL family members.

47 years of friendship, 29 years of active duty serving alongside my comrade-in-arms. Therefore, it is safe for me to provide the following word picture.

SgtMaj Al Athey was a leader, mentor, and strong advocate for Marines. His leadership style was second to none. Al completed the mission coupled by noteworthy results. He took the “I” out of individual and focused on “teamwork”. This steadfast leader considers the “Leadership Traits” and “Leadership Principles” one finds in the “Guidebook for Marines” as his personal code of conduct and tempers these with wisdom and genuine concern for his troops. BOTTOM LINE ... SgtMaj Al Athey was in the top 1% of Marines. I am PROUD and HONORED to have called him my FRIEND!

Al, take charge, hold muster, and keep those Marines in line. We SHALL meet again. RIP BROTHER!

Semper Fidelis,  
Wes & Susan Combs

WES COMBS - March 20 at 11:39 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 20 at 11:26 AM

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“ Teri, Andria and Bryan, so sorry to hear of the passing of Al, my friend and compadre, fellow Marine, and all around great man. So many memories of our times in HI in 3/3. Cancer sucks and takes the best away too soon. Just know that he is no longer in pain, resting easy. Mission accomplished Marine, job well done, rest easy and lookout Heaven, Al Athey is on deck, ready to serve! Semper Fi

Mike Hannasch - March 19 at 10:37 PM



“ With a heavy heart Rest In Peace SgtMaj. Athey you were a great leader and friend. Thank you so much for all your support and advice. May God bless Teri and family. God needed another leader for the streets of Gold. Semper Fi Marine

Harvey Macy MKC (ret.) - March 19 at 09:14 PM

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“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Alvin Simpson Athey Jr..



March 19 at 03:40 PM

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“ SgtMaj Al Athey

OoRah Marine; you left a print on everyone that got a chance to know you, you choose the "Marine Corps" as a way of life, leading with dedication, pride, and knowledge.

"God, Corps and Country" was your motto and it wasn't negotiable.

Semper Fidelis, my comrade, you will be missed, until I see you behind those pearly gates my friend.

Teri, my heart goes out to you, and all my prayers.

Ric Lawson - March 19 at 12:27 PM

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“ Best SgtsMaj I've ever had the honor to work with. Natural leader who made the worst of times easy his Marines. The only man that could make any dog hunt!

Will see you at the next All Hands, SgtMaj!

GySgt Ameer Saleem, Ret. - March 18 at 10:45 PM

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“ SgtMaj... Genuine Good Dude!!! I count it an honor to have know you and to call you Friend. Your personality is one that should be emulated. Best Marine I've ever met. Best DoD office to learn from. Thx for the talks Sir. Rest Easy Sgt!!!

Conway Robinson - March 18 at 09:53 PM

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“ The best thing AI ever said to me was "Your my friend Skipper roo". I would have followed AI into any situation. He's now on point.

Skip Nizer - March 18 at 06:27 PM

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“ Great friend and even greater man. You will be missed dearly Sgt Maj Athey. Teri my thoughts and prayers for you and your family.

Joe Roventini - March 18 at 03:51 PM

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“ Sgt Major you were an amazing leader and a great friend. You will be greatly missed. Rest Easy my Brother. Semper Fi Devil Dog.

Stephen Johnson - March 18 at 03:07 PM

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“ Rest Easy Sgt.Maj Athey  
from the Marines of Marine Corps League, Diamond State Detachment 704



Tim Shepke - March 18 at 10:08 AM



“ Rest in peace Marine. Semper Fi.

Agustin AKA Austin Govin - March 18 at 10:18 AM



“ Teri,

We are so sorry to hear about Al. We did see him in December, he stopped by Toys for Tots.

I was looking up pictures for Phil and I sent him my favorite one. Al and Fred at the the Marine Corps Ball, they were having a good time.

We will miss him.

If you need anything please let us know, Alan and I will be here.

Love,

Suzie & Alan



**Suzie & Alan** - March 18 at 09:35 AM