

Obituary

Reginald Zachary “Reggie” Dean was loved by many, but to the few he allowed especially close, he was family. He was generous, loyal, and a mentor to many young men throughout his life. He loved bowling, cooking, fishing, and spending time with the people he cared about. He was also a proud United States Air Force veteran.

Reggie was born February 27, 1960, in Ithaca, New York. His parents were Helen and Ted Dean, and Morrice and Pat Dean. His sisters are Cookie Dean Bates, Terri Lewis, Melissa Holland, and Sharen Holland Loucks.

Beginning in junior high, Reggie formed lifelong friendships with Bill Dockstader and Bernie Hardeway. The three spent many weekends camping and fishing together. It was also during those years that Reggie discovered his love of cooking.

Reggie began his career in the United States Air Force in 1980. During his military service, he served a tour in South Korea. He and Shirley Dean had three daughters: Jackie Dean, Christine Dean, and his beloved late daughter, Trista Dean.

After more than 20 years of service, Reggie retired from the Air Force in 2001. His final duty station was Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

Following his retirement, Reggie spent several years near his best friend, Thane Sisson, and Thane’s wife, Lori. In 2003, the three moved to Lubbock, Texas, where Reggie went to work at a local bowling alley. Bowling had been a lifelong passion, but it also became the way he connected with people who would become an important part of his life.

While working at the bowling alley in Lubbock, Reggie began coaching Nathan and Andrew Sieffert. What started with bowling grew into a relationship that lasted more than twenty years. Reggie became their mentor, friend, and an important presence in their lives. He was also Selena Fogg’s mixed-doubles bowling partner.

In 2008, Reggie suffered a stroke that ended his active bowling days, but it did not end his role as a mentor. He continued reaching out to young men in his neighborhood and became someone teenagers knew they could trust. They could talk to Reggie about their deepest thoughts, worries, and feelings without judgment. He encouraged them to do their best, taught them about God, and encouraged them to turn to the Bible for wisdom and guidance.

In December 2018, as dialysis and other physical challenges made daily life increasingly difficult, Reggie moved to Amarillo, Texas, with the help of his longtime friend Selena Fogg. In 2021, a fall and broken hip left him dependent on a wheelchair, but the circumstances of his life never changed the importance of the relationships he had built over the years.

Reggie passed away peacefully in his home on August 3, 2026.

Those who knew Reggie will remember much more than the hardships of his later years. They will remember the bowler, the cook, the fisherman, the Air Force veteran, the mentor, and the friend. They will remember a man who could be difficult to get close to, but who loved deeply once he let you in. Most of all, they will remember someone who gave his time, wisdom, and friendship generously to the people who mattered to him.

After years of physical struggle, Reggie is finally free from pain and with his Lord and Savior.

He has gone home, and he will be deeply missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, August 14, 2026 at 7 p.m. at Shafer Mortuary Funeral Home.

Services have been entrusted to Shafer Mortuary Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Obituary on behalf of Cookie Dean Bates

Reginald Zachary Dean

February 27, 1960-August 3, 2026

Reggie died of heart failure in Amarillo, Texas.

Reggie was born in Ithaca, New York to bio parents, Maurice Randolph and Helen Mack Dean. Step parents, Ted Dean and loving wife, Pat Dean both devoted their lives to Reggie's growth in mind and spirit.

Reggie attended school in Ithaca New York.



A champion of bowling and loved riding his dirt bike in the fields of Coddington Road in Brooktondale, NY where he grew up.

At Camp Barton, yearly as a staff member. Thank you to the Camp Barton Staff Alumni Association for your support of our family and Reggie's memory.

We all know how meaningful Camp Barton was to Reggie.

Enlisted in the US AIR FORCE, retired with honors.

In addition to his parents, he leaves his sisters, Cookie Dean Bates, Terri Lewis, Melissa Holland and Sharon Holland Loucks.

Surviving the mother of his children Shirley Dean, daughters, Jackie Dean, Christian Dean, The beloved Trista Dean, Effie Valenson, Monica Mac Turk.

Nephew, Terry Bates. Grandkids, Ethan Wilson, Brook Wilson, Isiah Dean, Jeremiah Dean, Riley Townsend, Payton Townsend

Cousins, Jeff Love, Lisa Collins, John Gould, Kathy Turton, Dee Williams, Bruce White, Topsey White, Cora White and Molly Forte.

THE CAMP BARTON STAFF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

August 12, 2026

Attn: Services for Reginald Z. Dean
C/O Selena Fogg



To our departed friend, and brother - Reginald Z. "Reggie" Dean

Between 1975 and 1980 you graced us with your enthusiasm, leadership, dedication, and booming personality. You were a beacon of light at Camp Barton.

Scouts, Staff, and Leaders from various parts of the country that attended Camp Barton were drawn to you and eager to see you each summer. You were indeed a celebrity on staff.

When you joined the Air Force in 1980 and spent your last summer with us we all knew things were going to be different in the years to come, but we hoped that you would find your way back.

Your life moved forward as does all of our alumni – and we spent many years searching for you, trying to reconnect. The task was difficult, the methods to do so were scarce and we encountered one dead end after another. But we continued to look.

We finally made some headway earlier this year when some information provided by some of your family that remains in the Ithaca area led us to learn that you were in the Amarillo Texas area. We continued to try and reach out – calling various phone numbers, emailing outdated emails and scouring the web for any leads.

And then, August 6th came – the day we learned you had gone.

It sucked the air right out of all of us. A big hole was now bigger and deeper. We could not have been more at a loss for how to feel, and what to do.

Sharing the news with everyone was devastating and the outpour of prayers and memories was astonishing.

The hardest thing is knowing that you never knew that we were here and we were looking. A family of brothers and sisters eager to meet the legend himself.

And so now, as we say good bye to you Reggie, we also say God rest your soul -you are now home.

Your memory at Camp Barton is eternal. Your place in our alumni is of the most highly regarded and respected, and you will receive full honors accordingly. Those in your most recent life may have never heard you speak of Camp Barton or your time on staff – you were too modest and humble for your own good. They deserve to know just how much of an impact you made, and how deeply you will be missed. Rest in peace Reggie, and thank you.

The Camp Barton Staff Alumni Association