



# Bryant J. "BJ" Baum



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## **Bryant J. "BJ" Baum**

**B**ryant J. "BJ" Baum, 91, of Sahuarita, AZ, formerly of Decatur, IL, passed away peacefully at Villas Assisted Living in Green Valley, AZ.

BJ was born December 23, 1927 in Bethany, IL, the son of Bryant and Mary (Paul) Baum. He married his wife of 66 years, Jean Turrentine, October 4, 1947 in Maryland. BJ was a veteran of the US NAVY and also served as a police officer for the City of Decatur, IL, where he retired after 27 years of dedicated service.

BJ was an amateur radio operator, operating under the call sign "K9SWR". He also enjoyed tinkering with electronics and computers.

Surviving are his children, Maribeth Baum of Morganton, NC, Russell Baum (Andrea Blakeman) of Sahuarita, AZ, James Baum (Betty) of Decatur, IL; brother, George Baum of Decatur, IL; grandchildren, Lisa Fay of Granite Falls, NC, Bari Baum of Sorento, IL, Kasey Carroll of Wildwood, MO and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael E. Baum (who was killed in action in Vietnam, and Baum School was named in his honor); brother, Paul Baum and sister, Mildred Mize.

Funeral service will be held 10:00 AM Monday, January 21, 2019 at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Sunday, January 20, 2019 at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home.

Memorials: Police Benevolent and Protective Association Decatur Unit #39.

Condolences may be left to BJ's family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).



## Tribute Wall

**Bryant J. "BJ" Baum**

RR

**Rick And Marie Rarick** posted:

Russ and Andrea, Our deepest condolences to you and your family. So glad you were able to spend your Dad's final year with him. Rick and Marie Rarick

January 21 at 7:34 AM

LD

**Linda Michl Davidson** posted:

My Father, Mike Michl, was a dear Friend of Jim's for many years prior to him joining the Police Force..I too, was at his home many times, and oh the stories he and Dad told..Wow...! Jim was an awesome Guy and I'm sure those closest to him will miss him the Most...RIP Jim

January 18 at 3:59 AM

MB

**Meridith Burgess** posted:

i always learned something from jim (as i called him). he helped me get my ham ticket , and i don't think i would have ever got it without his riding me to get my act together. he was a no nonsense guy on the outside, but he cared about i think everyone ,but just couldn't let it show, most of the time. we went to a lot of hamfests together, which i always had a good time when i went with jim. even though he is now with old friends and family. i lost a man i called a friend, for now.

January 16 at 6:00 PM

JT

**John E Turrentine** posted:

Sorry to learn of the passing of my Uncle. I will always remember the rides he gave me on his Police motorcycle when I was a kid. He was a good no nonsense man. My condolences to all.

January 16 at 3:01 PM

CT

**Charlene Mize-Tuttle** posted:

Sending sincere sympathy on the death of my uncle. May he R.I.P.

January 15 at 2:42 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Bryant J. "BJ" Baum**

DH

**Denny Harris** posted:

Met and rode with Sgt Baum when I first joined DPD in 1974. He was a gruff, no nonsense man, who seemed little bitter over the loss of his son. He was however a compassionate man. I saw him tear up at the scene where a young black boy was struck and killed by a car. Greatest respect for B.J. Baum

January 15 at 7:47 AM

LT

**Lawrence Taylor** posted:

Russ you have our deepest sympathy We love you

January 15 at 7:35 AM

BC

**Brad Collins** posted:

My deepest sympathy to B.J.'s family. I met B.J. in June of 1965 when I joined the Decatur Police Dept. He was but one of my Training Officers but I spent most of my training period riding with him. I learned much from him and we became fast friends and fellow Sergeants before I left the department to join the Sheriff's Dept. He was one of a kind as many will tell you. Although I saw little of him after I retired and left Decatur I'll miss him greatly. I was a better "Cop" for having my start with him. God Bless.

January 14 at 9:10 AM

GE

**Gen** posted:

My deep condolences to the family. He always made me laugh when I was near him. May he rest ever peaceful with aunt Jean.

January 14 at 5:52 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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