



## SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)

May 22, 1961 - November 10, 2023

SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.), 62, of Valrico, born on May 22, 1961, in Pompano Beach, entered into eternal rest on November 10, 2023. He was a retired Senior Master Sergeant for the United States Air Force, a Human Resource Administrator for Special Operations Command and Central Command, a Freemason, and an avid golfer. He is survived by wife of 20 years, Deborah Russell; children, Shayla Gerome (Michael), and Calvin A. Russell III both of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Jerry Bolden (Christin) of Valrico; grandchildren, Anthony, Caryssa, Cyree, and Trevor; father, Calvin A. Russell; brother, Tyrone Russell; and many other family, and friends. He was preceded in death by mother, Lela Russell. A graveside service with full military honors will be held Wednesday, November 22 at 12:30 P.M. at Florida National Cemetery, 6502 SW 102nd Avenue, Bushnell. Expressions of condolences at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Ave  
Bushnell, FL 33513-8914  
(352) 793-7740

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV **22**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery  
6502 SW 102nd Ave  
Bushnell, FL 33513-8914  
(352) 793-7740

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ One year ago today, Our Father brought you Home - rest in Paradise - ILY, Fred 🙏👮🏻🗳️😞

Deborah Russell - November 10, 2024 at 10:02 AM

KE

Debbie, I just learned of Calvin's passing. We are so sorry for your loss. May God continually keep you and the Family with the Peace, Love and Comfort as only He can give. We love you. Your cousin, Kookie (Karen McDowney Epps-Johnson) (804) 214-5781

Karen Epps-Johnson - December 18, 2024 at 09:13 AM

MB

“ I just learned of Calvin's passing. To remember him with Honor is to have known him as a Brother; righteous, caring and dedicated to his father and Family. In that light... Calvin is remembered with Honor; until my days are done.

Max R. Blumenfeld - March 19, 2024 at 05:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).

December 13, 2023 at 11:13 AM

NA

“ Dear Calvin ! You will be missed , rest in peace brother Love you

Nadia - December 13, 2023 at 10:11 AM

JB

“ I just learned of Calvin's passing and am so shocked and saddened for Deborah and family. Calvin and I worked together at SOCOM's J1 Civ Pers Div. He was such a wonderful person and a joy to work with every day. My heart hurts for all those who loved him. I'll never forget all he did for me. Surely he is in heaven. Judy Del Barto

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**Judy Del Barto** - December 09, 2023 at 06:56 AM

OC

“ Calvin aka “Big Smooth”, heaven just gained one sharp dressing angel. My memories of my time working with you and Debbie aka “Work Mom” are some of the most memorable in my career. You will be missed my brother, love you both my friends!

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**Omar Correa** - November 23, 2023 at 08:14 PM

MF

“ Calvin will truly be missed. He always had a smile on his face. I will never forget playing golf with him, Jerry and my dad. We had a great time and I am going to miss him very much.

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**Mike Ferrario** - November 23, 2023 at 04:48 PM

RG

“ Mrs. Deborah and Family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Calvin was a wonderful man. You and him was truly like my family. God called home his Airman, his mission was complete here on earth. May God continue to bless you and give you strength during this difficult time.

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**Reggie Grimsley** - November 23, 2023 at 04:37 PM

BO

“ Calvin - thank you for your service, contributions to others and making a very special lady happy and a better person. Rest in Peace ~ Bill and Heather O

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**Bill and Heather O** - November 23, 2023 at 04:34 PM

DR

“ Calvin: my Partnet, Best Friend, and Husband

... how do I live without you, but through Faith and the Grace of GOD

rest in eternal peace - I Love You, FRED 🙏👤💔

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**Deborah Russell** - November 23, 2023 at 04:02 PM

VC

“ Deborah & Family,

*I'm at a total loss however, I know our Heavenly Father doesn't make any mistakes. Calvin has completed his earthly job, well done thy Good and Faithful Servant well done!*

*Family Praying the Lord will hold you especially close and comfort you through the coming days, by the love of family and friends.*

*With Heartfelt Sympathy and Prayers.*

*Virginia A. Carter & Family*

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**Virginia Carter** - November 22, 2023 at 02:49 PM

SW

“ Steven W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).

Steven W. - November 22, 2023 at 12:09 PM

JB

“ Deepest condolences to the Russell family. Calvin is my neighbor and a finer human being I never met. Rest in peace Calvin.

Jeff and Dianne Bartek - November 22, 2023 at 11:58 AM

MK

“ Cal, you are definitely going to be missed. Worked with Cal in the J-1 at CENTCOM and played many rounds of golf with him. What a personable, honest and humble man he was. Loved being around him, always had a smile on his face and very positive about life. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Russell family. Definitely taken too soon. 🙏🙏🙏

Monty Kirkland - November 22, 2023 at 11:24 AM

CS

“ Condolences to the Russell family. I had the privilege to work with Calvin at USSOCOM, J1 and he was always so willing to help whenever needed. I will miss running into him and seeing his smile. RIP my friend.

Cindy Shaw - November 22, 2023 at 11:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



November 21, 2023 at 08:48 PM



“ Calvin,  
God has called you home to Heaven, after completing your outstanding mission on Earth —Job Well Done!  
My condolences to your wife Debra, and Family. May the Lord bless them with the strength to endure life without you. However, you'll live in their hearts 💕 forever.  
It was a blessing/honor to know and work with you over the years.  
May you Rest in Peace.  
Much Love and Remembrance  
Pam “Ms. Priss” Worlds 🌍🌸🌸



Pamela “Ms. Priss” Worlds - November 21, 2023 at 05:18 PM



“ My deepest and sincerest condolences to the Russell family, friends and co-workers. Calvin welcomed me with open arms at SOCOM and helped me whenever I needed it and I was always happy to return the favor. His presence was missed when he left the Command and will now be forever missed. Rest in peace my friend.



Veronica Floyd - November 21, 2023 at 03:05 PM

CW

“ *Deepest condolences to the Russell family.*

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**Charmaine Woon** - November 21, 2023 at 02:52 PM

FM

“ *Fernando (Junior) & Margaret purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).*



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**Fernando (Junior) & Margaret** - November 21, 2023 at 11:27 AM

CD

“ *Calvin, I can't believe you're gone. I sit here looking at your desk, feeling a great emptiness, still waiting for you to walk in with your huge smile. I could never thank you enough for your friendship, support and motivation. You made work not work. I so wish you had the chance to enjoy retirement. I pray you are in heaven winning every golf tournament. You are deeply missed my friend.*

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**Cynthia Demeritte** - November 21, 2023 at 10:22 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).*



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November 21, 2023 at 09:27 AM

LG

“ Calvin's light will continue shine in the hearts of those who knew him. An outstanding and dedicated professional always striving towards excellence ("follow up; follow thru" one of his quotes). But to me he was just that great friend that you could count on. Rest In Peace, my friend. May God provides the strength and spiritual healing for your loved ones. v/r

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**Luis A, Gonzalez-Ocasio** - November 21, 2023 at 08:46 AM

DI

“ Doreen I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).

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**Doreen I.** - November 21, 2023 at 06:46 AM

DI

“ Cal, I waited to write because I didn't know what to say. I will miss you my friend and co-worker. You were amazing in your life and how you took care of everyone. You presence is missed by all. Until we meet again my friend.  
-Doreen Intagliata

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**Doreen Intagliata** - November 21, 2023 at 06:42 AM

JR

“ When the Lord calls our loved ones home, he leaves a gift of memories in exchange. Calvin, we love you! you will truly be missed.....RIH cuz!

*James, Maxine, Mosi and Adanna Russell*

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**JAMES, MAXINE, MOSI AND ADANNA RUSSELL** - November 20, 2023 at 10:56 PM

JR

“ JAMES, MAXINE, MOSI AND ADANNA RUSSELL sent a virtual gift in memory of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)



JAMES, MAXINE, MOSI AND ADANNA RUSSELL - November 20, 2023 at 10:41 PM

VL

“ Valerie Lang-Kitchens lit a candle in memory of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)



Valerie Lang-Kitchens - November 20, 2023 at 09:17 PM

CJ

“ CENTCOM J3 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



CENTCOM J3 - November 20, 2023 at 08:16 PM

Profile icon

“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



November 20, 2023 at 04:21 PM

UF

“ USCENTCOM CCJ1 FAMILY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).

USCENTCOM CCJ1 FAMILY - November 20, 2023 at 04:21 PM

CO

“ CENTCOM Inspector's General (IG) office purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



CENTCOM Inspector's General (IG) office - November 20, 2023 at 01:17 PM

TG

“ Calvin was always a joy to work with. When I worked in the J-1, I always knew when I walked through the Civilian section, he would greet me with a smile. It was an honor and privilege working with Calvin, RIH my friend, I will see you on the other side. My prayers are with his wife and family!

Tammy Glenn - November 20, 2023 at 11:05 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



November 20, 2023 at 09:33 AM

AR

“ Calvin, you were a force for good. I had the pleasure of working with you during your time at CENTCOM and I'll always remember your laughter and endless smile. I will truly miss you on the other side of the partition. Rest easy my friend. My prayers and condolences to your family in this difficult time.



Angela Ritter - November 20, 2023 at 09:24 AM

PW

Calvin,  
God has called you Home to Heaven, after completing your Outstanding Mission on Earth—Job Well Done!  
My sincere condolences to your wife Debra, and Family. May the Lord bless them with the strength needed to endure life without you. However, you'll live in their hearts 💕 forever.  
It was a blessing/honor to know and work with you. May You Rest In Peace.  
Much Love and Remembrance  
Pamela “Ms. Priss” Worlds 🌍🌸🌸

Pamela”Ms. Priss” Worlds - November 21, 2023 at 01:15 PM

NJ

Calvin Russell—an outstanding Air Force military and civilian leader and friend. He leaves us way too soon. My heart breaks for your family and extensive professional network across CENTCOM and SOCOM Headquarters. Calvin would tease us when we were behind at work—saying, “You’re killing me, Smalls!”...a reference to the movie, “The Sandlot.” Calvin...”You’re killing me, Smalls”. I hate you have left us so soon. You were the bright light in a difficult mission. Thank you for spreading smiles during the storm. Rest in peace. See you on the back 9. 🙏🖤

Natalie Jolly - November 21, 2023 at 09:51 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of  
SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



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November 20, 2023 at 06:11 AM



“ Dad, Tyrone, Gloria & Russell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in  
honor of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).

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**Dad, Tyrone, Gloria & Russell Family** - November 20, 2023 at 06:11 AM



“ I love and miss you cuz it was an honor to have you as my cousin I  
didn't see you much as I would've liked to but when I did it was  
nothing but Joy. I love u and may you rest in peace.

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**Cortney Madison** - November 18, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ Antonio Galaviz lit a candle in memory of  
SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)



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**Antonio Galaviz** - November 17, 2023 at 07:25 PM

AG

“ Hello Calvin, it's Antonio, I always had a Blast with we play together at the Gokf Course, I remember you call Fernando , Hank Haney and Him Calling u Jr, I got a kick out of That, We had some fun Things on the Course, You Left us too Soon, But our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had Other plans for you, Brother u will be greatly missed, You Charm, Kindness and your Golf Swing, It's Was an Honor Knowing u and spending time as a Gaspar Pirate....Be with God.....

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**Antonio Galaviz** - November 17, 2023 at 07:25 PM

SD

“ Condolences to Calvin's Family.Iworked with him at US Socom for many years. He was such a wonderful person. He will be missed! S DeVoe

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**S DeVoe** - November 17, 2023 at 07:07 PM

JK

“ Joanne K. purchased the Written in the Stars for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).



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**Joanne K.** - November 17, 2023 at 05:47 PM

JK

“ Joanne K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).

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**Joanne K.** - November 17, 2023 at 05:47 PM

HL

“ I was truly saddened by the news of Calvin’s passing. I had the honor of serving with him during my time as the Director of Manpower and Personnel at US Central Command but also had the pleasure of getting to know him on a personal level through the game of golf. My heartfelt prayers and sincere condolences to his family. Harry J. Lane, Jr. , Colonel, USAF (Ret)

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**H J Lane** - November 17, 2023 at 05:17 PM

AN

“ I can never forget Mr. Russell for his encouraging spirit and mentorship. I only knew him for a short time and can only imagine the impact he made throughout his life. He would speak energetically of his grandchildren, shared contagious laughter and cheered for those coming behind him in the ranks. It was truly an honor to know him, and he is missed. To the Russell Family, I send my sincere condolences and prayers.

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**Angela** - November 17, 2023 at 03:56 PM

JK

“ Sincerest sympathy for the loss of Calvin. Sending my heartfelt prayers and love to his amazing wife, Deb, son Jerry and daughter in law Kristin and grandson Trevor. My extended family for 40 yrs. Was an honor to meet and enjoy Calvin on my visit and wish all the family condolences.  
Joyce Kelly and family

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**Joyce Kelly** - November 17, 2023 at 03:43 PM

CS

“ Chantal Sanders lit a candle in memory of  
SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)



Chantal Sanders - November 17, 2023 at 12:32 PM

CS

*Rest in Peace. Cousin*

Chantal Sanders - November 17, 2023 at 12:33 PM

CS

“ Catherine Russell Sanders lit a candle in  
memory of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell  
USAF (ret.)



Catherine Russell Sanders - November 17, 2023 at 12:30 PM

RH

“ Calvin was the genuine, sincere and professional friend who  
proactively helped people regardless of their rank or grade. He went  
above and beyond when a HR issue occurred and worked diligently  
to resolve it under the radar. He expected nothing in return and  
greeted you with the big smile. I will miss hearing that deep voice  
calling me "Hollywood". My heartfelt condolences to his Family and  
we have truly lost a dedicated and patriotic Man.

Robert Henderson - November 17, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.).*



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November 17, 2023 at 11:58 AM



“ *My dear cousin, you fought well! You got tired. You chose eternal rest ! We will miss you on this earth, but most assuredly we will all meet again in Heaven! Rest now in Peace Cuz!*  
*(Rosa)*

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**Rosa Russell** - November 17, 2023 at 10:43 AM



*From the very first day I met Calvin through his first cousins Adrien and John shuman , even though we carry the same last name we were not related by blood, but you could not tell Calvin he and I were not related, and he treated me just like I was his very own family member , he was a man of great standards integrity and love for his fellow man, Calvin you have ran this race you have finished the cost henfort there is a crown laid up for you in heaven, sleep on my brother take your rest we love you but Jesus loves you best .*

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**Joshua Russell** - November 17, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *Junie Russell Kelley sent a virtual gift in memory of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)*



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**Junie Russell Kelley** - November 17, 2023 at 09:56 AM

JK

*Prayers for comfort & strength to Debbie, Calvin, Sr & Tyrone. Rest in peace dear cousin.*

**Junie Russell Kelley** - November 17, 2023 at 09:59 AM

BB

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of my friend and classmate and childhood friend of Esquire Lakes Calvin will be truly missed. The family of Barbara Butler*



**Barbara Butler** - November 17, 2023 at 03:47 AM

VC

“ *Vanessa Russell - Cousin lit a candle in memory of SMSGT Calvin Leon Russell USAF (ret.)*



**Vanessa Russell - Cousin** - November 16, 2023 at 07:27 PM

BR

*CALVIN, I'M IN TOTAL SHOCK 📢📢📢📢📢📢📢 U WERE TRULY, ONE OF A KIND. HOMIE, I'LL SEE U 🙏 ON DA OTHA SIDE. TAKE UR REST & KNO DHAT, UR TRULY BE MISSED.....AIM HIGH 💙✈️*  
*🇺🇸 #ARMYPRIDE4LYFE 🇺🇸*

**Brigitte Marcia Romain** - November 17, 2023 at 10:12 AM