



## Melvin Louis Bisson, Jr.

January 14, 1939 - December 10, 2020

Melvin L. "Tony" Bisson Jr. Age 81, of Champlin, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents, Opal and Melvin Bisson Sr. and brothers Malcolm, Martin & Gordon Bisson.

Tony is survived by his wife of 62 years, Margaret, daughters Carrie Bisson, Naomi Helm (Greg Parker) and Colleen Pitleck (Tom), granddaughters Abbey Dobratz (Jeremy) and Caitlin Erickson (Reid), great-grandsons Odin and Kieran Dobratz, as well as many special nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones.

Tony joined the Navy in 1959 on active duty until 1962 at which time he joined the Naval Reserves where he served until his retirement in 1986. He had many special shipmates he served with throughout the years that became lifelong friends. He loved attending Naval Reunions with his daughter Naomi.

Tony worked for the City of Minneapolis for over 30 years, the majority of that time working for the water department. When he retired in 1986, he began a second career as a bus driver for the Osseo Brooklyn Bus Co. His greatest honor was driving the President's Own Marine Band on their 1989 tour, driving them from Washington DC to San Diego over a 2 month period. He retired a second time after another 30+ yrs. of service. He made many special friends from both of these occupations as well.

Tony was a member of the Salem Lutheran Church in North Mpls for many years. His family worked together at the MN State Fair Dining Hall for decades, where he made the best Swedish Egg coffee. Many friends and family members worked with the family as well.

Tony was best known for his pride in his military service, his devotion to his family as well as his Native American Indian heritage.

A private funeral service will be held 10:30AM Tuesday December 22, with burial following at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. A webcast of the service will be available via the Washburn McReavy on-line obituary.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials in Tony's name to: Fleet Reserve Assn c/o Ron Campbell 5820 Oliver Ave S, Mpls, MN 55419 or the Minneapolis American Indian Center.

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Funeral Service of Melvin L. Bisson Jr. in memory of Melvin Louis Bisson, Jr.



Washburn-McReavy - December 21, 2020 at 04:42 PM

KA

*My thoughts and prayers are with your family. I was blessed to have met and cared for Tony prior to being promoted to Glory. He loved his family so much and was so proud of you all.*

Kate - December 22, 2020 at 03:24 PM

KM

*My thoughts are with Uncle Tony's family as they go through this difficult loss. I remember how hard that is. I love you all. Gigawabamin Uncle Tony!*

*Kelly Morgan (daughter of Laura Kitto)*

Kelly Morgan - December 22, 2020 at 11:04 PM

TR

“ So sorry to hear of Tony's passing. I worked with Tony at the Bus company. Drove the motor coaches with Tony. Proud to call Tony my friend. He helped me learn how to drive the big ones. He was very proud of his family & talked about you all the time. Trip through the Panama Canal, daughter, I believe in California? Going to miss you Tony. Thanks for the insight of your culture. RIP

*Tom Rubenstein*

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**Thomas W Rubenstein** - December 20, 2020 at 06:59 AM

GD

“ My condolences. I served with Tony at Glenview as a TAR and IFT in crew 3 including a detachment to Diego Garcia. He was truly a good guy, and a dedicated sailer. His service speaks for itself. Gary Dillon

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**Gary Dillon** - December 18, 2020 at 10:28 AM

GA

“ I'm sorry for your loss. Tony was such a sweetheart! His brothers are waiting for him, and I'm sure there's a deck of cards involved.

*I'd almost forgotten about the church dining hall at the fairgrounds. His coffee was so good that I actually had blisters on my fingers from pouring so many cups. I remember the family all working together and lots of smiles. Hugs to all.*

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**Gaye** - December 17, 2020 at 08:27 PM

DS

*So sad to see the last of the Bisson boys go. Always think of them this time of year as we spent most Christmases together as kids. Them coming here one year and us there the next. The Bissos were a warm, kind, welcoming family. You don't find that anymore. Love and hugs to Margaret, the girls and Marty's family!*

**Donna Clark Spaeth** - December 21, 2020 at 08:39 PM

MM

“ *Tony was a role model for every sailor - kind, wise, great sense of humor, hard working and loved his country. He was be sorely missed. Fair winds and following seas, shipmate.*

*CAPT Mike Mazurczak*

**Mike Mazurczak** - December 17, 2020 at 07:58 AM

WZ

“ *Tony was twice a citizen; it was an honor to serve with him in Patrol Squadron 60. Fair winds and following seas Shipmate.*

*AWC Walt Zajkowski*

**Walt Zajkowski** - December 17, 2020 at 01:09 AM

TF

“ *Tony served our country as a professional and gentle leader. Always ready to make our missions successful and fun too!*



**Thomas FitzGibbon** - December 16, 2020 at 08:03 PM

CP

“ Tony and I were not only Shipmates in Patrol Squadron 60 at Naval Air Station Glenview, Illinois but friends as well. He loved giving me (and others) a hard time...telling me how shi\*y I looked😭. He was a true Professional and a Sage in his Naval Career and will be sorely missed at our Reunions...as well as his dry sense of humor which most us "Navy Guys and Gals" have.  
May his Big Spirit live on🙏👍🇺🇸

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**Captain (PH2) W J Perlmutter-USN-retired** - December 16, 2020 at 07:57 PM

CU

“ Tony was my dad's best friend and my Godfather. He inspired my military service and was a mentor. A great man who's memory will always be cherished by me.  
May God grant peace and comfort to Margaret, Carrie, Naomi and Colleen. +

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**Chaplain(Major) Michael D. Wikstrom, USA** - December 16, 2020 at 05:53 PM

PP

“ Tony was a great navy squadron mate. I am very fortunate to call him a friend and shipmate. I have any great Tony memories and stories that will make me smile forever.

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**patrick peterson** - December 16, 2020 at 04:35 PM