



Bruce Gerald Aasen, Sr.

June 20, 1934 - December 9, 2025

Bruce Gerald Aasen, Sr., age 91, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on December 9, 2025.

Bruce was born on June 20, 1934, in Arnegard, North Dakota, as Bruce Hystad, to his mother Selma Hystad. He was later adopted by his stepfather, Magnus Clifford Aasen, who raised him and gave him the Aasen name he carried with pride throughout his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Magnus Aasen (June 1, 1914 - October 8, 1995) and Selma Aasen (March 16, 1910 - May 28, 1991), and by his beloved grandson, Bruce G. Aasen III of California (April 1, 1980 - December 25, 2018).

Bruce is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Laureen M. Aasen, whom he married on October 24, 1987, his children, Rose Aasen-Rojas and her spouse Armondo of Mexico, and Bruce Aasen, Jr. and his spouse Iva of Bulgaria, his stepchildren: Naomi Fields and spouse Efram of Washington State; Jennifer Tomlinson and spouse Evon of New York; Philina De Jesús of North Carolina; and Christopher Pavlicek and spouse Melissa of North Dakota.

Bruce also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Alexis De Jesús of Virginia; Christian De Jesús and spouse Jayden of Florida; Miriam De Jesús

and Skye De Jesús of North Carolina; Rebecca Aasen and Eric Aasen of Connecticut; Tamieka McGill of New York; Taylor Tomlinson of New York; Evon Tomlinson, Jr. of Florida; Mikayla Tomlinson and Sophia Tomlinson of New York; and Jude and Victoria Pavlicek. He was also blessed with two great-grandchildren, Sierra M. Aasen of California, and Amani McGill of New York.

Throughout his life, Bruce lived in many places, including Arnegard, Mott, Dickinson, and Bismarck, North Dakota; Lead, South Dakota; Battle Lake, Minnesota; Great Lakes, Illinois; Norfolk, Virginia; Newport, Rhode Island; Stratford, Bridgeport, Bethel, and Danbury, Connecticut; Juno Beach and Key West, Florida; and Mooresville, North Carolina.

Bruce lived a life rich with experience and hard work. From farm labor in North Dakota during his childhood, to logging in the mountains of Montana, gold mining in South Dakota, firefighting in the Navy, boiler tending, plumbing, and eventually training as a tractor-trailer driver and professional locksmith, he never shied away from learning something new. Over the years, he worked for many companies, including Alcoa Aluminum, Norden's, General Electric, Fairfield Hills Hospital, the City of Bridgeport, Stonybrook Gardens Cooperative, Remington Products, Fairfield University, and Red Roof Inn.

Bruce proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1953 to 1957, achieving the rank of Petty Officer E-4 (Boiler Technician). He continued his service in the Inactive Reserves from 1957 to 1961, and later in the Active Navy Reserves from 1965 to 1969, serving aboard the USS Coates (DE-685). During his active-duty service, he was stationed at Great Lakes, Illinois, and later served aboard the USS Hyman, an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer. His naval travels took him along the East Coast of the United States and to Cuba, Puerto Rico, Scotland, England, the North Sea, the Panama Canal, and Chile.

The Navy opened Bruce's eyes to a much larger world-he saw his first television and helicopter while enlisted, experienced city life for the first time in Chicago, and fulfilled his desire to escape the dust of North Dakota in favor of the open ocean.

Bruce was well known for his fearless spirit, daredevil nature, sharp sense of humor, and gift for storytelling. He was especially fond of motorcycles and owned several Honda Goldwings throughout his life, enjoying cross-country travel in his younger years and, after meeting his wife Laurie, many local rides and trips together. A natural jokester with a loving heart, he could make anyone feel like family. He enjoyed drinking beer, sharing his love of vanilla ice cream by occasionally making it with the kids, and watching programs on the Military and History Channels. Above all, he loved sharing stories of his adventures and "shenanigans" from years past. He was a devoted husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Salisbury National Cemetery Annex, 501 Statesville Blvd., Salisbury, NC 28144.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Purple Heart Homes, 755 Washington Ave, Statesville, North Carolina, 28677, in honor of Bruce's life and military service. More information on Purple Heart Homes can be found on their website at www.PurpleHeartHomesUSA.org.

Cemetery Details

Salisbury National Cemetery

501 Statesville Blvd
Salisbury, NC 28144

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Salisbury National Cemetery
501 Statesville Blvd
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

RR

“ *If it weren't for my dad, i wouldn't be here. That's a joke with truth embedded for obvious & not so obvious reasons. I'm still here. He's not. He did well, however, making it to 91! Hallelujah!*

One thing that must be mentioned about my dad is that he lived by his own rules, a bit of a rebel in his day. They weren't always the best nor the most decent rules, but he lived by them & did it with gusto & glee, much fanfare & plenty of beer. Everyone wanted to know what Bruce would do next. Where is he? What's he doing now?

I'm a Lot like my father. Because of his love of life, it rubbed off on me. It got me into plenty of trouble over the decades, but i'm okay now. I'm growing up in my 60s. He gave me courage to live & knowledge of the world & how to do things right. He gave me great moral values & conscious awareness... He did it without even realizing it because he hadn't even realized it in himself. He was so much in motion, he didn't have time to analyze it. He just kept going. And he entertained a great many people along the way. Then, he became a family man in his 50s & lived a happy life with his 2nd family. That was God's reward to him. He didn't suffer in old age & lived among those he loved. Not a bad thing at all. Stuff of champs.

Rose Aasen Rojas - December 19, 2025 at 06:28 PM

RR

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Rose Aasen Rojas - December 19, 2025 at 06:01 PM

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“ *Naomi & Efrem Fields purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Bruce Gerald Aasen, Sr..*



Naomi & Efrem Fields - December 13, 2025 at 10:58 AM