

Alvin E. Begaye,

Birth:

Born at Castle Butte, (Dilcon) Arizona, about 45 miles, NE of Winslow, Arizona. Al was born at home to his parents Eugene and Thereisa Kanuho Begay. They had altogether 13 children. Al was the 4th to the youngest child.

Childhood and Education:

As a child, his father had picked him to remain at home and tend to the livestock.

At the age of 9 he ran away to school which was a **BIA Boarding School**. He had a lot of catching up in school and he did that. He later wanted to be put in the **Indian Student Placement Program** with the **Mormon Church (Latter Day Saints)** and lived with his Mormon Sponsors Floyd and Hannah Johnson in Orem, Utah.

He transferred to Vernal, Utah during his Junior and Senior year in High School and graduated from **Utinah High School** in Vernal, Utah.

Army Service, College Education and Marriage:

Alvin was drafted in the **US Army** in 1971. He used his GI Bill to attend **Brigham Young University**, where he graduated in 1979. While he was coming back from Germany, he stopped in Provo, Utah where he met Julie Gorman Roanhorse. He married her in January, 1974. He got a fine art degree from **BYU**.

Additional Military Career:

Alvin realized that he needed a steady income because he soon became a father and husband. So he got his commission, and was stationed in Fort Bliss (El Paso) Texas. He had gained the rank of Captain in the **US Army**.

Then he switched to Air Defense with the **New Mexico National Guard** and was able to remain in Fort Bliss, (McGregor Range) near White Sand, NM. He stayed in the military until he was medically discharged because he had stomach cancer. He had gained the rank of Colonel in the **NM National Guard**.

He died on March 20, 1987.

Survivors:

Alvin was proud of all his children: Chad Alvin Begaye, Michelle Lisa Begaye, Sean Alvin Begaye, Jamey Begaye Lowrey and Krystal Shannon Begaye. Since his death 3 grandchildren have been born: Kristen Taylor Fred (she died on June 24, 2001), Jadress Lynn "Littlefeather" Lowrey and Sofia Nizhoni Begaye.