



## Al Branche

May 2, 1938 - February 21, 2017

Al Branche, age 78 years, a resident of rural Creal Springs, passed away Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 5:54 AM at Baptist Health in Paducah.

Al was born May 2, 1938 in Marion, Illinois. He was the son of Eloy Branche and Pauline (Gold) Branche.

Al was united in marriage to Jean (Bullock) Branch on March 23, 1994 in Tennessee. She survives.

In addition to his wife, Al is survived by: his children – Marsha (her husband, David) Spelich of Fountain Hills, Arizona, Lee (his wife, Val) Branche of Murphysboro, John (his wife, Toma) Branche of Cypress, and David Branche of Chicago; a step daughter – Cindy Laspesa of Port Townsend, Washington; 6 grandchildren – Josh Branche of Chicago, Danielle Branche of Oviedo, Florida, Nicole Branche, Tony Pistono of Bolivar, Tennessee, Danella (her husband, William) Schroeder of Jenisen, Michigan, and Sarah Laspesa of Chicago; a half sister – Carlin (her husband, Rick) Tippet of Carterville; and his step mother – Betty Branche of Creal Springs.

In addition to his parents, Al was preceded in death by: a step daughter – Penelope Ann “Pene” Pistono and 2 sisters – Eloise Ann Bailey and Charlotte.

Al was a 1957 graduate of Marion High School.

Al was employed by the Illinois Department of Corrections. From April 1963 – February 1987, he was employed at the Stateville Correctional Center. He began working at the Vienna Correctional Center in February 1987. He served as the Assistant Warden of Operations and retired in December 1996.

Al was a skilled craftsman. He enjoyed woodworking and building furniture. He had built the home that he and Jean enjoyed in their retirement. Al also enjoyed gardening.

A service honoring the life of Al Branche will be conducted Saturday morning, February 25, 2017, at 11 AM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Burial will be in the Vienna Fraternal Cemetery

Visitation will be conducted Friday evening, February 24, 2017, from 5 PM – 7 PM at Bailey Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter, 320 East Walnut Street, Suite A, Carbondale, IL 62901 [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or to the First Baptist Church of Vienna Food Pantry Program, P.O. Box 727, Vienna, IL 62995.

# Cemetery Details

## Vienna Fraternal Cemetery

N. 6th Street  
Vienna, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **24.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home  
705 North First Street  
PO Box 695  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618) 658-2311  
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com  
<https://baileyfh.com>

## Service

FEB **25.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home  
705 North First Street  
PO Box 695  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618) 658-2311  
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com  
<https://baileyfh.com>

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ *Al, thanks for all you did to make Stateville less dangerous for both prisoners and staff... you were the one most responsible for key and tool control...thanks....*  
*Warden DeRobertis*

Richard W.DeRobertis - March 22 at 08:36 PM



“ *Al Branche*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM

GT

“ *Greg Taylor lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



Greg Taylor - February 28, 2017 at 04:45 AM

TC

“ *Toma and John, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. May peace be in your hearts at this difficult time.*

Theresa Casteel - February 25, 2017 at 02:25 PM

RC

“ I had the privilege of working with Al for many years. He always made me fill I worked with him instead of for him. He will be missed greatly.  
Ray Conley

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**Ray Conley** - February 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ My condolences to the whole family. My prayers & thoughts are w/all of you. I worked under the supervision of Al as his Clerk for about 5 years. He was a great man w/a very kind heart.  
Dee Tracy

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**Dorothy Tracy** - February 24, 2017 at 07:49 AM

AL

“ Al & Debbie Latoza lit a candle in memory of Al Branche



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**Al & Debbie Latoza** - February 24, 2017 at 05:52 AM

RM

“ Worked for and with Al many years at Stateville and considered him a good friend. Our sincerest sympathy to his family . Rick and Bessie McCollum

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**Rick & Bessie McCollum** - February 23, 2017 at 06:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Al Branche.*



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February 23, 2017 at 10:50 AM



“ *Al was a great friend and co-worker during our time at VCC. With both of us serving as Assistant Wardens together, I always knew he had my back, and I his. Those are great memories and he will be missed.*

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**Steve Heisner** - February 23, 2017 at 09:56 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Al. He was a good man, great boss and a good hunting buddy.*



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**Jim abd Barb Henry** - February 23, 2017 at 09:42 AM



“ *Jim, Beth, Matt & Tommy Hill purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Al Branche.*



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**Jim, Beth, Matt & Tommy Hill** - February 23, 2017 at 08:43 AM

RH

“ *Russ Kreuter & June Hartline lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



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**Russ Kreuter & June Hartline** - February 23, 2017 at 08:15 AM

TC

“ *Tom Carrell lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



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**Tom Carrell** - February 22, 2017 at 08:14 PM

LM

“ *Jennie and family of Al Branche, I am very sorry for your loss. Al was a dear friend an co-worker of mine. He truly had my respect and we enjoyed some great times together. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Larry Mizell*

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**Larry Mizell** - February 22, 2017 at 07:08 PM

GW

“ *Gary Wiggs lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



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**Gary Wiggs** - February 22, 2017 at 05:00 PM

RM

“ Jeannie, so sorry for your loss. He will be missed. We are still in FL but will be with you in our thoughts and prayers.

Royce and Jim McClellan - February 22, 2017 at 03:43 PM

RN

“ Warden Branch was my boss at Vienna CC. He inherited the Health Care Unit while I was there. He was a great boss.  
Robin Heisner Newcomb

Robin Newcomb - February 22, 2017 at 01:29 PM

LB

“ Jeannie & all, So very sorry to learn that ,my former GREAT BOSS is not around to keep aggravated. Yes, he will be missed by ALL who knew him. Lula Ann & Bob



LulaAnn Bob - February 22, 2017 at 10:46 AM

SR

“ Steve And Sharon Robbs lit a candle in memory of Al Branche



Steve and Sharon Robbs - February 22, 2017 at 10:29 AM

AR

“ Alan And Carol Racey lit a candle in memory of Al Branche



Alan and Carol Racey - February 21, 2017 at 08:21 PM

JH

“ Janet & Gary Hacker lit a candle in memory of Al Branche



Janet & Gary Hacker - February 21, 2017 at 06:39 PM

JR

“ Jim & Rosemary Rouse lit a candle in memory of Al Branche



Jim & Rosemary Rouse - February 21, 2017 at 05:01 PM

PD

“ Phillip Ditterline lit a candle in memory of Al Branche



phillip ditterline - February 21, 2017 at 04:10 PM

ER

“ *Elaine Rotan sent a virtual gift in memory of Al Branche*



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**Elaine Rotan** - February 21, 2017 at 03:21 PM

LM

“ *Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



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**Larry and Carolyn McGill** - February 21, 2017 at 02:55 PM

MT

“ *Mike & Becky Turley lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



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**Mike & Becky Turley** - February 21, 2017 at 02:27 PM



“ *Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of Al Branche*



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**Jeannie McCall** - February 21, 2017 at 01:53 PM