



## Rodney Joseph Trahan, Sr.

February 5, 1928 - December 10, 2012

Rodney Joseph Trahan, Sr.

Rayne - Funeral services will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. for Rodney Joseph Trahan, Sr., 84, who passed away peacefully Monday, December 10, 2012 in Lafayette General Medical Center Hospital surrounded by his family.

Interment will be in the St. Joseph Cemetery #2, Rayne, LA 70578.

Surviving are his wife, Janice Lejeune Trahan of Rayne, three daughters, Ava Kiker and husband Mike of Concord, NC, Dana Sturis and husband Bill of Mire, Claire T. Meche and husband J.D. of Crowley; two sons, Rodney Joseph Trahan, Jr. and wife Helen of Kannapolis, NC, Nicholas C. Trahan and wife Lori of Lafayette; eleven grandchildren, Michael, Laura Jean, Kip, Kristen, Ian, Hannah, Avery, Ella, Kate, Lila, Camille; godchild, Sherman Trahan and wife Geraldine of Rayne; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents, Belizaire Trahan and Claudia Credeur Boullion, step-father, Lenis Boullion.

He was born Sunday, February 5, 1928 on the family farm in rural Rayne, LA and resided there until his passing. Son of the late Belizaire Trahan and the late Claudia Creduer Boullion.

Eager to serve his country, he joined the U.S. Navy after high school and served until the end of World War II.

In 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served until 1967.

He was an artilleryman and served in the 82nd Airborne Division, the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, and the 101st Airborne Division. He was awarded Parachute and Glider wings upon completion of jump school in Fort Benning, GA in August 1947. His overseas assignments include: Korea, Japan and Panama. He was a Master Parachutist and wore that badge proudly. He also served as a "Black Hat" Airborne School instructor with the 101st jump school at Ft. Campbell, KY from February 1956 to June 1958. Rodney served during three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, because "It was my duty to preserve the American way for future generations."

Rodney was an excellent athlete all of his life. He was a member of the Rayne, LA football team when they won the State Championship for their high school class in 1944. He was a boxer and ran track too. He continued his athletic career on active duty and was on the Ft. Bragg, N.C. football team and boxed in the Army. He was a coach to the athletic department of the U.S. Military Academy while he was assigned to West Point Military Academy.

He taught at Rayne High School, University of Southwestern Louisiana and Mire Elementary and later was a member of the Acadia Parish School Board for 12 years. He was an educator at

heart.

He was very active in Post 77 of the American Legion in Rayne, LA and was the Americanism Chairman for many years. He organized and conducted the American Legion Oratorical Contest for the Rayne Post for many years and was at many of the elementary and high schools in Acadia Parish to speak on Veterans Day and to represent the American Legion in presenting awards to the students. He was an inspiration to many young people in pursuing a military career.

He was a proud paratrooper, veteran, educator, father and true American Patriot.

A rosary will be recited Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Gossen Funeral Home.

Friends will be received at Gossen Funeral Home, Inc., Rayne, LA. Wednesday, December 12, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m..

The Trahan family would like to thank Mire Volunteer Firemen, Lafayette General Medical Center's Emergency Department, ICU and LHC Group's LTAC for being so attentive and compassionate toward him.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at [www.gossenfuneralhome.net](http://www.gossenfuneralhome.net).

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.  
of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

# Tribute Wall

PA

“ I will miss the conversations with my buddy. He always taught me something in each discussion. Not very long ago he told me about 6 man football when he was in high school...I had never heard of that in my life ! He was a master story teller and a wonderful friend to me.

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**Patrick Pellerin** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

CA

“ Mrs Janice,I am so sorry for your loss. We will continue prayers for you and your family. Rodney was a dear friend and an outstanding legionaire. He will greatly be missed in the Department of Louisiana American Legion. I went by the Funeral Home this morning and I'm sorry that I missed you.

*Charlie Aucoin  
NEC, Dept. of La.  
The American Legion*

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**Charlie Aucoin** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

MA

“ *My deepest sympathies and condolences to the loss of not only a great man but loving family member. I have no reservations in stated that the qualities that made him an excellent paratrooper, jumpmaster, airborne instructor were the same endearing qualities that he passed onto not only his family but his extended Army family.*

*I pray that in a short time many others will reflect on the leadership, humbleness, and servitude that this man exuberated. His passing is not really a loss because his legacy of service still inspires, instills pride, and motivates young leaders, tomorrows leaders to do more than what they think is possible!*

*SFC(ret)Rodney Trahan, you live on in spirit and for that we are internally grateful for your service to our nation and the example of fine americanism he has left behind.*

*Sincerely,*

*SSG West  
3/504 PIR vet  
Drill Sergeant*

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**Mason West** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

ML

“ Ms. Janice and Family,

*So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Rodney (I remember when I played basketball at Mire Elementary, he was an awesome umpire!!!!) and he is also my cousin. My dad is Carol Trahan, Sr. and my grandfather was the late Voorhies J. Trahan.*

*He was a very kind hearted man and always had a smile on his face. He loved working with children.*

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**Monica Trahan Landry** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

ED

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I met Mr. Trahan 14 years ago when i won an award in high school. A few weeks ago i stopped at his house while selling tickets for a boy scout fundraiser and he remembered me from 14 years ago. pretty amazing. The Mire/Rayne community has certainly lost a true patriot.*

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**Edric Rock** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

MC

“ *I am sorry for your loss, my prayers and thoughts are with you all.*

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**Mary Comeaux Odell** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

JA

“ *My condolences to the entire Trahan Family. My Rodney played a very significant role in my life while I was growing up in Rayne. He was a tremendous role model and educator . He will always be a solid inspiration. My time spent with him was gratifying.*

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**Jack Bonin** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

CT

“ My deepest Condolence to the Trahan family . I am the son of the late Voorhies J. Trahan and Hazel Robin Trahan .My Grandfather was Joesph Trahan and Grandmother was Euzia Credeur Trahan from Abbeville ,La .

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**Carol J Trahan,Sr.** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

MM

“ Rayne has lost a true patriot. My deepest condolences to Ms Janice and the entire Trahan family. May God wrap his loving arms around you, and guide you through this most difficult time. I know that the community will feel his loss, but the loss felt by you, I know is immeasurable. May you find peace in the knowledge that he is at rest, with his Lord, and that he watches over each of you . You were blessed to have shared in his remarkable life, and his gifts to his community and country will never be forgotten. God bless

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**Monique Domingue Moreland** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

LT

“ Sorry for your loss, will keep your entire family in our prayers.

. Lena Olivier &  
. Trisha O. Benoit.

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**Lena & Trisha Olivier** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

AR

“ Rodney will be sorely missed within the American Legion. He was the main stay with the Blue Cap Awards. The American Legion Department of Louisiana was always close to Rodney's heart, with the Fantastic job he did with the Oritorical Contest, and his favorite the Blue Cappers. My most sincere codolences and our prayers are with you over his passing.

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**Archie Boyette** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

TL

“ *From the Department Staff:*

*Our prayers are with you and your family. May the Lord strengthen and bless you.*

*We will surely miss Mr. Trahan and his service to and on the behalf of The American Legion.*

*Commander Herbie Petit*

*Adjutant Matt Farlow*

*Staff Penny Trepagnier & Dianne Cofield*

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**The American Legion Dept. of Louisiana** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM

MG

“ *So sorry for your lost. Sadly I don't know my mothers cousins. I wish I had made an effort years ago to learn more about the Trahan's.*

*I did hear the name Rodney from Moma and Aunt Zola. My mother was Beulah Trahan, her father was Joseph Trahan. Carol Trahan sent me an email to let me know that Rodney passed away.*

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**Mary Garber Landry** - October 29, 2013 at 04:06 PM