

Bruce R. Marshall

November 13, 1946 - April 27, 2021

Seabrook - New England combat sports innovator Bruce Robert Marshall died on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, during recovery from open-heart surgery. He was 74 years old. Bruce was born on November 13, 1946 in Syracuse, NY to Archibald J. and Ruth Elizabeth (Boisvert) Marshall.

He was a Vietnam-era veteran, enlisting in the Navy at age 17, right after graduating from Hamilton-Wenham High School, shortly after his mother's untimely death. He served his nation aboard the aircraft carrier USS America in the Mediterranean, referring to his time aboard that ship as the "Kiddie Cruise."

On December 8, 1979, he married Lucinda (Marafino) Simpkins, his best friend, confidant, and partner in Trilogy/Black Belt Productions. They raised their son, Marley, and lovingly cared for Lucinda's two children, Alexandra and Nathaniel.

Bruce was a black belt champion of his time, studying Kajukenbo Karate in the '70s, a hybrid martial art originating from Hawaii and brought to the mainland by George Pesare. When competitive kickboxing caught on in the '90s, Bruce was there as an international competitor, coach, and promoter. He brought MMA into the mainstream of New England when he became the lead promoter of Combat Zone in 2003. In the early days of MMA, many fighters

would move on from Combat Zone to fight in the UFC, helping transform the sport into today's worldwide phenomenon.

Bruce is survived by his wife Lucinda "Cindy" and son Marley, his sister Melonie and his brothers Reid, Craig, and Jayson. Also, his two grandsons Levi and Jacoby, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to vast contributions to MMA in New England, Marshall mentored generations of students at Bruce Marshall's Kenpo Karate, whose lives were immeasurably improved by his ferocious but loving teaching. Kirik sums up the character and legacy of Bruce Marshall well in a recent article (<https://www.mixedmartialarts.com/editorial/rip-bruce-marshall/>) "Think Mr. Miyagi, with an accent from The Departed, crossed with a rock star." Bruce Marshall was truly one of a kind, and would tell us all to "love the life you live, and live the life you love."

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 11 A.M. Thursday, May 6, 2021 at the Hamilton Cemetery, Bay Road, Hamilton, MA alongside his mother. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of traditional remembrances donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, North Country Chapter 21, PO Box 414, Bethlehem, NH 03570. Assistance with the arrangements was by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hamilton Cemetery
624 Bay Road
Hamilton, MA 01936

Tribute Wall




“ *Bruce R. Marshall*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *He set the foundation of my work ethic. When I was 8 my mother brought me into his dojo on Barton square. The dojo upstairs and the ring downstairs. The place was full of warriors and sweat. He made us run around the common with weights and fight multiple attackers for promotion I miss those days. His legacy has touched many lives as my children are taught his values and work ethic through me. Rest easy sensei.*



--Mike Herrick

Mike Herrick - December 26, 2021 at 08:32 AM



“ *So many people come and go out of our lives. Some leave such an impression that it is like a candle going out when they leave us behind. Bruce was one of those people. He was such a good man, a force of nature and we will never forget our fun times together. Godspeed, until we meet again!* 🙏🥹

Denise & Tony Pelletier - May 15, 2021 at 07:26 PM



Thinking of Bruce in his 4th Anniversary. He was such a nice guy who served his country in the Navy and his community well. I was happy to call him a great friend and fellow Veteran

Marilyn Walsh - May 04, 2025 at 01:36 PM

MW

Thank you Bruce for all your service for our Freedoms and stronger communities. 🙏🇺🇸

Marilyn Walsh - May 04, 2025 at 01:38 PM

SK

*“ Cindy, Marley and Family
My sincere condolences to you on the passing of Bruce. I have so many great memories with your family. Bruce taught Ashley martial arts like only Bruce could - He instilled in Ashley many core values of the martial arts, which are still a part of Ashley today. Ashley was a fierce competitor, and Bruce fostered a love of the martial arts in Ashley that will always be there. Thank you for the memories ,
Bruce. Rest In Peace ,
Stephanie Bourbeau Karr*

Stephanie Karr - May 06, 2021 at 03:57 AM

SW

*“ Bruce was a great sensei and friend, I have so many insane memories of him. We hadn't seen each other for many years but ran into him in Seabrook recently and am grateful for that time.
Thankyou for your service and your instruction you were a true martial artist. Bushido my friend. RIP*

Steve Wanyo - May 04, 2021 at 07:47 PM

MW

Bruce was such a good guy, family friend of my brother Phil Walsh and fellow Veteran I really got to know and respect. My deepest sympathy to Cindy, Marley and family🇺🇸

Marilyn Walsh - May 08, 2021 at 01:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce R. Marshall.



May 03, 2021 at 08:46 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Melonie Brade - May 03, 2021 at 08:15 PM

MK

*My teacher friend brother!!
St mike put u in my life.
Trilogy salem ma. 1980s!
Discipline respect honor
If u can't take it. U can't dish it out.
Lock the Dojo Door!! In the ring at 15 years old. My fear went away. For my older brother was bullie. He did nothing. Because of u. Sen Sa. I became a minister. Help those in addiction and bullied.
2 times couldn't difuse the situation
3 combatants. Wouldn't take no
3 ..men are 1. No fear. They regretted. Their aggression. All on ground I left!!
Without u . I would be dead
Ur forever pupil
St. Mike
Michael Kennedy*

Michael kennedy - May 06, 2021 at 07:54 AM

SP

“ I have known Bruce since 1981 and have also had only the greatest respect for him. He was always a very good friend to me.... Steve

Steve Pizzo - May 03, 2021 at 06:45 PM

BC

“ Bruce was a guiding light to Andrew as he was growing into his teen years. On a few occasions he was able to defend himself because of the lessons in karate provided by Bruce. And then Andrew's granddad also became a student. Both experienced safe attitudes and experience though Bruce and his instructions.

Thanks forever.

Tony and Andrew Chiasson

Bunny and Tony Chiasson - May 03, 2021 at 11:34 AM

WP

“ I still remember Bruce teaching me karate when I was 13. I remember how good natured he was and how he was always quick to make a joke but also not to be messed with. He taught me a lot and I will always treasure memories of him. He will be missed.

will pasquina - May 03, 2021 at 07:34 AM



“ Melonie Brade sent a virtual gift in memory of Bruce R. Marshall



Melonie Brade - May 02, 2021 at 04:44 PM

AS

“ You were one of a kind. One love.



Alexandra Simpkins - May 02, 2021 at 03:39 PM

MV

You were such a good guy with a great positive attitude who helped so many people. Thank you Bruce for also serving in the Navy during the Vietnam era. You will be missed! 🙏❤️🇺🇸

Marilyn Walsh, family friend & Veteran - May 02, 2021 at 07:27 PM

SW

Bruce was a great sensei and friend, I have so many insane memories of him. We hadn't seen each other for many years but ran into him in Seabrook recently and am grateful for that time. Thankyou for your service and your instruction you were a true martial artist. Bushido my friend. RIP

Steven Wanyo - May 04, 2021 at 07:37 PM

EB

Earl Brown - Black and Blue and blue he used to call me. He has given my soul to the Martial arts of movement. the martial arts gave me life. Bruce martial represented the spirit of the true Martial arts which i am still to this day able to demonstrate my movements with grace because of such spirit. Rest in peace Sensei.

EARL BROWN / Black and Blue - June 15, 2021 at 10:50 PM