



## Nicholas Bradlee

November 3, 1931 - July 1, 2021

Nicholas Bradlee, age 89, of Rochester Hills, Michigan, died on July 1, 2021. Nicholas was preceded in death by his first wife Beatrice Bonillo Bradlee, and is survived currently by Linda Patterson Workman. Nicholas is survived by his children David Bradlee (Cheryl), Christopher Bradlee (Heather), and Marla Mercado-Bradlee (Enrique). He is fondly remembered by his seven grandchildren: Matthew, Elaine, Erika, Olivia, Ana-Cristina, Carolina, and Colin.

Nicholas achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force and served in combat during the Korean War.

Nicholas earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Waynesburg College. While there he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He earned a DPM at Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. He was a practicing podiatrist in Warren and Troy

Visitation is at Dryer Funeral Home in Holly, Michigan.

Sunday, July 11th from 2-9 P.M. The funeral is at 1 pm on July 12th at Dryers'. A ceremony, with full Military Honors, will be performed at 2:30 P.M. at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI. [www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com)

Tell Me Why, Heroes Have to Die

A tribute to Dr. Nicholas (Bubuli) Bradlee

Great Lakes National Cemetery, July 12, 2021

Written by: Christopher A. Bradlee

Yes, it is true that heroes have to die. As much as that hurts to say, it's why we gather here this afternoon and pay honor to another hero who will be laid to rest in these hallowed grounds of the Great Lakes National Cemetery.

The property for this cemetery was donated by Bryson Dexter Horton, a Spanish-American War veteran-turned-industrialist who invented the "Square D" switch. Horton's invention dramatically improved electrical safety, by encasing the switch in steel and protecting users from the live electrical current. It is notable that veterans continue to be heroes, even after they leave military service.

There are many aspects of my father's life that I think were heroic, and include his dedication to family, and of course his military service where he was a combat veteran of the Korean War. In the few moments that I have I would like to highlight his commitment to education as a path out of poverty and his heroic efforts to rise with education.

Dr. Bradlee grew up as the youngest of five children in an impoverished home in Brownsville, Pennsylvania with a loving mother, brothers and sisters; but he became estranged from his stern father. With his problems at home, my dad left High School and began to run with a local street gang. His gang nickname was "Blue Can", and while he certainly had the academic ability to graduate High School, he chose the "Streets" as his classroom instead. My father told me many times "Being book smart helps a lot... but being street smart keeps your ass alive..."

The streets are tough, and dad got wise and decided that the United States Air Force was a better place.... so, he enlisted. Fresh off the streets and unsure of where he was going, fortune smiled upon him.... he was assigned to a Squadron in the 27th Special Operations Wing where the First Sargent was a man named Delmar Wells. "Delmar got my head right and I

began to see the importance of education” .... is how dad would describe Delmar’s mentorship. For the next 18 months Delmar told dad what to do...and dad was smart enough to follow along; and shortly thereafter “Blue Can” was no more, and Nicholas Bubuli achieved the rank of Staff Sargent. I do not have the time to go into further details of Dad’s combat in the Korean War, and how he went to Waynesburg College after he was honorably discharged from the Air Force; where he earned his Bachelors of Science in Chemistry while working summers in the local Steel Mills....and how he then enrolled at Kent State University in Kent Ohio to work on his Master’s Degree while teaching High School chemistry in Ravenna, Ohio... and

how he met my mother, Beatrice, at Kent State, and upon graduating, with my mother’s urging and guidance, he enrolled into the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine....and how he had a 40+ year career as a physician specializing in foot and ankle surgery, where he helped pioneer less invasive procedures to restore Achilles tendon injuries. He also served multiple terms on the Board of the Michigan Podiatric Association, include several terms as its President.

However, time does allow me to say that my father would credit both his “Street Smarts” and his “Academics” as the means by which he rose from poverty. My father would say that “the beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you.” Understanding of the value of education is something that drew my father to Linda.

My father has had a supportive, loving, relationship with Linda and she has been his supporter and gave him hope, especially in these last few years; and together they have been able to watch their kids get their education and now are seeing their grandchildren graduate from High School and College. In conclusion, we gather here today in remembrance of another fallen hero. A hero who showed how an education can take someone from a street-smart kid called “Blue Can” to a respected physician and surgeon

known as "Dr B." I would like to end this tribute to my father by reminding all of us that, yes, Heroes die, but.....

Don't forget who your heroes are, what they mean to you, and why they mean that to you.

"Rest in Peace, Sargent Bubuli"

# Cemetery Details

## Great Lakes National Cemetery

Holly, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 11. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

DryerFuneral Home, Inc.  
101 First St  
Holly, MI 48442  
(248) 634-8291  
bgdryer@hotmail.com  
<https://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com>

## Service

JUL 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

DryerFuneral Home, Inc.  
101 First St  
Holly, MI 48442  
(248) 634-8291  
bgdryer@hotmail.com  
<https://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com>

## Military Honors

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JUL 12. 2:30 PM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery  
4200 Belford Rd  
Holly, MI 48442-9444  
(248) 328-0386

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service for Nicholas Bradlee*



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**Bruce Dryer** - July 12, 2021 at 03:41 PM



“ *Tell Me Why, Heroes Have to Die*  
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*Written by: Christopher A. Bradlee*

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*home in Brownsville, Pennsylvania with a loving mother, brothers and sisters;*

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**Bruce Dryer** - July 12, 2021 at 12:03 PM



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*and together they have been able to watch their kids get their education and now are seeing their grandchildren graduate from High School and College.*

*In conclusion, we gather here today in remembrance of another fallen hero. A hero who showed how an education can take someone from a street-smart kid called "Blue Can" to a respected physician and surgeon known as "Dr B." I would like to end this tribute to my father by reminding all of us that, yes, Heroes die, but.....*

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*"Rest in Peace, Sargent Bubuli"*

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**Bruce Dryer** - July 12, 2021 at 12:02 PM

RB

“*As a former patient of Dr. Bradlee at his Warren office, I remember him as a kind and caring doctor with a great sense of humor. I'm so sorry to learn of his passing and send my condolences to the family. Sincerely, Ruth Bennett*

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**Ruth Bennett** - July 10, 2021 at 01:17 PM

CB

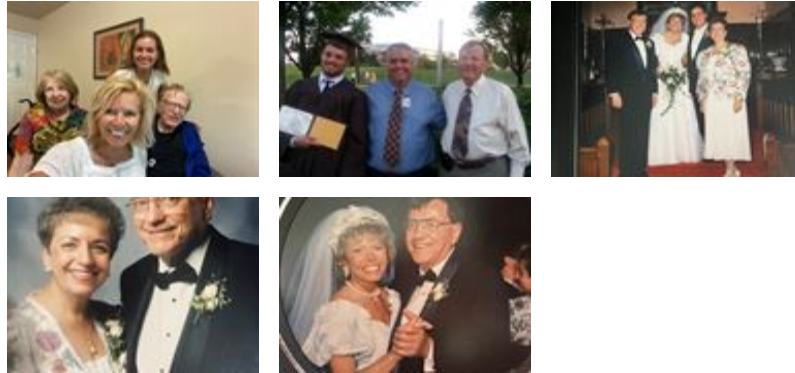
*Thank you Ms. Bennett. Dr. Bradlee loved being a podiatrist and had genuine concern for his patients and wanted the best for them. Our family appreciates your condolences. Chris Bradlee*

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**Christopher Bradlee** - July 11, 2021 at 10:23 AM



“ 12 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. - July 09, 2021 at 02:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Nicholas Bradlee.



July 09, 2021 at 12:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Nicholas Bradlee.



July 09, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ *Heavenly Sentiments Spray was purchased for the family of Nicholas Bradlee.*



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July 08, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with the family Joe and Heather Strick*

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**Heather Strick** - July 08, 2021 at 12:19 PM



*Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Our family is saddened by the passing of our father, and we appreciate your condolences.*

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**Christopher Bradlee** - July 11, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time Scott and Jennifer Kramer*

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**Jennifer Kramer** - July 08, 2021 at 12:17 PM



*Thank you for your condolences, Scott and Jennifer. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.*

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**Christopher Bradlee** - July 11, 2021 at 10:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nicholas Bradlee.*



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July 08, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Nicholas Bradlee.*



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July 08, 2021 at 11:25 AM



“ *David, Christopher and Marla, I am so sorry for the loss of your Dad. I have many memories and cherish the times we all spent at football parties, weddings and showers. We had some good conversations on our deck upnorth too! May the memories of your Dad bring you peace. Karen Noel (Eberhart)*

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**karen noel** - July 08, 2021 at 09:42 AM



*Karen, Thank you for your kind words. All of the cherished memories is what has kept me going. Dad lived a blessed life and will be sorely missed.*

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**Christopher Bradlee** - July 11, 2021 at 10:50 AM



“ 9 files added to the album Life Tributes



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Dryer Funeral Home, Inc. - July 07, 2021 at 01:59 PM