

MEMORIAL SERVICE

# Carl Robert "Bob" Leal

## Eulogy

*Delivered by Jill Leal*

July 29, 2026

**Welcome:** Good morning. I'm Jill Leal and I would like to thank each of you for taking time out of your day to come and be a part of honoring and celebrating the exceptional life of my dear husband, Carl Robert Leal, but most people simply called him Bob, or Bobby.

**Meeting:** I was twenty-four years old and had just graduated from music school at Baylor University with my twin sister, Jan, in 1978. In the Fall of that year, Jan and I, along with our youngest brother, Jeff, were entertaining at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada. Bob had just arrived at the hotel, coming back from a hunting trip in Wyoming. He was eating with his friends when he saw my twin and I in our costumes walking across the casino to our stage. They followed us to see where we were going, then stayed to watch us perform. Bob told his friends later that he wasn't leaving the hotel until he met that girl, meaning me. He checked into the hotel, got cleaned up and bought new clothes because he was all grubby from hunting, then started coming to see our shows every night.

My first encounter with Bob's "MASTER NEGOTIATING SKILLS" was during the first time he asked me out to dinner.

In those days, performers and artists would mingle with the guests in the audience to build their fan base. There was no social media at that time.

Bob decided to meet my brother first and pick Jeff's brain about me. Jeff, being the outgoing Texan that he was, he told Bob whatever Bob asked....I guess.

One night as Jeff and Bob were sitting talking, I sat down and joined them. Jeff got up and left, so then there were just me and Bob. We started to talk and Bob came back each night to continue getting to know me.

Eventually, one night Bob asked me out to dinner. I said, "No, thank you", and explained that my sister and I had a strict policy that we don't date people we meet at work. Well, Bob continued to talk with me and asked again, and I politely said, "No, I'm

sorry but our policy is that we don't date people we meet at work." This went on for quite a while.

SO....., I don't know if this next part is because Bob was a "Master Negotiator" or that I took "LOGIC AND REASONING" in school, but after a while, he says, "Listen....you're HERE talking with me now, right?" I said, "Yeah." He says, "Well, what's the difference if tomorrow night, we're sitting over THERE at Gigi's restaurant across the casino having dinner? You can meet me HERE, bring your sister, and we have a nice dinner over THERE?"

This is where it gets ridiculous, but I literally remember thinking in my head, "Well, yeah....I'm sitting HERE right now.....tomorrow night I'll be over THERE. Hey.....THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE!!!

*"Ok, I'll meet you for dinner."*

Well.....Jan did come and sit with us the next night at dinner and Bob and I stayed together from that very first date forward.....and that stupid policy went out the window!!!! I think my twin sister was really mad about the POLICY and I don't know what Jeff thought!

So that was my first time to witness just how good Bob could negotiate.

**Lessons:** What I loved about Bob from the very first was that he was very strong mentally and physically, extremely intelligent, charming, and a true gentleman. Bob was already a successful businessman and entrepreneur, well established in his career of buying and selling real estate, farming, establishing new businesses, negotiating land transactions, designing peach and tomato stations, and doing whatever he felt was a good business deal.

Being a musician and performer, I knew nothing about Bob's work, but from the very first of our relationship, Bob would take me with him when he went to business meetings, negotiated with buyers or sellers of real estate, meetings with attorneys, his CPA, etc., it didn't matter who or what, Bob took me with him.

In those days, most men didn't take their wives to business meetings, but Bob didn't care. He took me with him and gave me a first-hand seat at watching and listening to a master negotiator and creator of deals that worked out not only for him, but for everyone. He taught me to always LISTEN, as that was the key skill he exercised to learn what everyone at the table wanted so that he could structure the deal properly.

He had a gift for simplifying everything and making it look easy, but I knew it wasn't. It was all from what Bob believed in his heart to be his GIFTS from God.

Bob knew and always acknowledged that God was the giver of all he had and all he was able to do in business and in his life. To be clear, when I say "God", I am referring to Jehovah, the God of the Holy Living Bible.

**Christian:** Whereas I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Jesus into my heart at age ten, Bob became a Christian one month before I met him. He told me that he got on his knees in his home one day and asked God to give him someone he could share his life with. Bob actually had a list for God of what kinds of traits he wanted this woman to have. Some of the items on his list were that he wanted a woman from Texas because he thought they were hospitable, he wanted her to be educated, he wanted her to be a singer because he wanted to travel with her, and there were several other items on his list. Well, we met one month later. Proof that God does hear your prayers.

**Character:** One of the first things Bob expressed to me was that the most important thing in a relationship is Trust and Loyalty. I had 48 wonderful years with Bob to witness that he was the most loyal and trustworthy person I had ever known. I never once concerned myself with where he was or what he was doing. I trusted him 1000%.

**Helping:** Bob's heart was always aligned with helping others. Growing up very poor himself, he had a desire to provide support and assistance to the very needy of the world. He enjoyed working with churches, local charities, and global Christian organizations such as World Vision, Convoy of Hope, and In Touch ministries while also utilizing the non-profit organization called Bethel World Foundation which was co-founded in 2017 by Bob, myself, and our close friends Reid and Anne Murphy from Medford, Oregon. In fact, Reid's father married me and Bob.

**Advice:** Since Bob's passing on Father's Day, June 21st, I have received countless phone calls, texts, cards, and had many conversations with men and women who remember fondly how much Bob taught them about business, relationships, work ethics, finances, investing, managing, and most importantly, the love of Christ. He always had time to talk with anyone who needed him.

I would like to share two stories to illustrate Bob's influence as a godly man.

**Kartine:** About four months before Bob passed away, I was looking to hire help so that I could accomplish everything needed to be done and to make sure I was taking the best care of my husband as possible. I contacted Pastor Marcia Chambers at Emmanuel Family Worship Center and asked her if she knew anyone good and reliable.

She introduced me to who I call my SAMOAN ANGEL, Kartine Vuniwai. The first time Bob met Kartine was in the emergency room, three months before he passed away. I had her meet me there because I had scheduled to interview her at our office that afternoon, but couldn't because I needed to take Bob to the ER, so I asked her to just come and meet me there.

She had been taking care of a woman in Woodland who had passed away on Saturday, two nights before, at 100 years of age. Kartine was now trusting God to give her a new job, as He had always provided for her.

Well, Bob saw her, took her hand, smiled, looked up at her and said, "You're pretty", "You're pretty".....two times. I knew right then that she was from God because Bob never did that with anyone.

As she was staying with us those last three months, she and Bob would laugh together and she helped me love and care for Bob in a way that made him very happy and content. Bob really loved her.

**Queen:** Three weeks before Bob passed away, Kartine's daughter, Queen Vuniwai, thirteen years old, was out of school for the summer and wanted to come and stay with her mother at our house. I asked her if she would like to help take care of our German Shepherd, Peno, and she was thrilled because she loved dogs.

I made an arrangement with Queen to have her stay with us for her summer months out of school. She wants to be a doctor someday, so I told her I would pay her to take care of our dog. Also, if she watched how her mother and I cared for Bob, assisted us, and was really sweet to Bob, I would give her bonuses. She did a wonderful job and earned every one of those bonuses. Bob really loved her, as well.

**Guidance:** One night, I told Bob that Queen was going to sit with him as I got ready for bed. Her mother was also getting ready for bed in the other bedroom. I immediately heard Bob start talking with Queen and giving her advice. I heard him say, "Now you're a pretty girl and you need to be careful." He continued talking and I could hear him as I was over in the bathroom. He went on and on and I was wondering if Queen was listening because Bob didn't stop at all. When I was finished, Bob was still talking so I went over to the bed and told Bob that we were all going to sleep now and let's thank Queen for visiting with you.

**Lunch:** Well, the Saturday after Bob passed, Kartine, Queen, and I, were eating lunch at a restaurant in Roseville and talking about how much we missed Bob and things we loved about him. All of a sudden, Queen, while holding her phone, said, "I don't know if

I did the right thing..." I said, "What do you mean?" Queen said, "That night Bob was talking with me, I started to record him with my phone." I said, "You did? Can I hear what you recorded?" Queen started playing different recordings of what Bob was telling her.

He said, "If you ever need help, find me. If you need me, come to my office." I started crying and said, Queen.....that really was Bob. He meant every word. He was warning you and trying to protect you. You did the right thing recording what he was telling you.

Queen was blessed in the three weeks she was with Bob. She was even at his bedside in the hospital a day before he died. She got to experience his love and wisdom and I'm very grateful for her goodness in loving Bob back.

**Creig:** My final story is in regards to a man who Bob only spent a few times with; however, this man made a huge impression on Bob. His name is Pastor Creig Marcus who said the opening prayer this morning.

Creig and Bob hit it off because they both served in the US Army. Creig is a Native American Indian, Taos Pueblo, very intelligent.....and FUNNY! He, as Bob was, is a bottom-line man, direct, and honest.

Pastor Creig was faithful to always email and text me to check on Bob. After Bob passed away, I texted him to tell him about losing Bob.

Creig texted me back something that touched me very deeply and I asked him if I could share it with you. He was gracious and gave me permission.

**Per Creig, quote:** "This would be for the Glory of God Almighty and to honor our true Christian soldier, Bob, for you to share in testimony, not for my glory, but for the Lords."

This was the text he sent:

*"Jill,*

*Prayers for your comfort, my sister. When I read your text shortly after you sent it, I broke out into singing, "To God Be the Glory". I don't have a good voice for singing, at all. But the Holy Spirit filled me with His Presence, and it was beautiful, like never before has a song like that come from me. And it brought peace to me, knowing Bob was with our Lord Jesus at that very moment. Love you and Bob!*

*I never sang like that in my life; it was a one-time blessing from the Lord because of Bob's life. And the vision I saw while singing:*

*I saw Bob walking toward the Lord (I couldn't see the Lord, but His glory was blazing and bright) with his arms outstretched. With every step, the years melted off of him, and he walked into the light a young man. Then the Holy Spirit said to me many things about what I need to do, the strongest command was to give and help others like you and Bob always did. Peace enveloped me, and I fell into a deep sleep.*

*That was a renewed call from the Lord, because He was so pleased with Bob's love for Him, the Lord disciplined me to not give up, in spite of my physical challenges- Isaiah 41:10."*

**Isaiah 41:10:** Pastor Creig used Isaiah 41:10 in his text which was one of Bob's favorite verses.

It reads in the NIV translation as follows:

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Thank you, Pastor Creig.

**Quotes:** As Bob and I spent our last year together, I started to hear him say things that I wanted to remember, so I began to write them down.

One quote of Bob's that he was so proud of and loved to tell people, including his doctors was, "I DON'T DRINK, I DON'T SMOKE, AND I DON'T DO DRUGS."

*(Pause)*

"IT IS WHAT IT IS" was another phrase Bob would say all the time. This showed how Bob could accept whatever happened, good or bad, and then just move on.

He never held grudges and I came to really appreciate this quality, especially in his last year. I began striving to practice the same quality of not holding a grudge because I realized how valuable it had been to Bob all of his life. He was happy and didn't allow anger or malice to enter his heart.

On October 30, 2025 at 89 years old, Bob told me, "God has blessed me, I don't need anything else."

The morning of May 22, 2026, one month before Bob passed away, I was cooking breakfast as Kartine and I were talking with Bob when he said, “Personally, I enjoy GOD.” Kartine and I both looked at each other with tears in our eyes and I immediately wrote it down. This was so touching and very true of Bob. His life was centered around enjoying the Lord and serving Him.

Bob was a genuine LEADER, not a follower of men. He was a FOLLOWER of Christ.

I’m very proud of him, who he was, and the godly man he exhibited in our marriage and to the public.

**Last Words:** On June 21st, the last words I said to Bob as I kissed his forehead were, “I LOVE YOU. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. I PROMISE TO HONOR YOU WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE.”

That is what I intend to do with every breath God gives me.

**Closing:** Thank you again for coming and for allowing me time to express how much I loved Bob and what he meant to me and so many others. I truly adored him and it was a blessing to be his wife and care for him for 48 years.

In closing, I would like to share with you a song that I wrote and recorded for Bob many years ago. Every word is true about our relationship. I hope you enjoy it.

**THANK YOU**