



Helen Jo Swearingin

March 15, 1952 - May 4, 2026

Helen Jo Swearingin, who everyone knew as Jo, passed away on Monday, May 4, 2026, in Columbia, Missouri, at the age of 74. She was born on March 15, 1952, in Fürth, Germany.

Jo served others throughout her life. She served in the United States military and achieved the rank of Sergeant (E-5). During her military service, she was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. After her time in the military, Jo continued caring for others through her work as a civil service nurse at Fort Leonard Wood.

Jo attended The River Church, where she became part of a church family that loved her. She participated in prayer, loved the Lord, and was cared for by a church family that loved her. We are grateful for her life, her faith, and the years we were able to walk with her.

Jo found joy in simple, familiar things. She looked forward to going to Culver's each month with her friend Carla, whose friendship meant a great deal to her. She also loved dogs, and Victor, her little dog friend, held a special place in her heart. When Victor visited her in the hospital on May 3, Jo recognized him and smiled, and he remained close beside her throughout the visit in a way that reflected the bond they shared. It was a tender moment that brought comfort to everyone in the room.

Jo was preceded in death by her parents: Harry and Evelyn Cook. She is survived by her cousins: Lee Livingston of Ames, Iowa; Rex Livingston of Union, Kentucky; Jeannie Sutton of Davis City, Iowa; Peggy Riggs of Ames, Iowa; and Alan Livingston of Captain Cook, Hawaii, along with her church family and friends.

A graveside interment service with full military honors will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood. Pastor Dan Murray of The River Church will officiate the service.

In honoring Jo's life, we remember her faith, her service, and the place she held in our church family. We are grateful to have known her.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Graveside

MAY **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Missouri Veterans Cemetery, FLW
25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Helen Jo Swearingin, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten...

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Veteran, Helen Jo Swearingin, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - May 20 at 09:44 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - May 19 at 04:36 PM