



## SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner

May 6, 1934 - December 5, 2013

SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner, son of the late Orlan and Susie (Wells) Garner, was born May 6, 1934 in Sherwood, Tennessee. Joe grew up in Chattanooga and entered the United States Army at the age of 17.

Joe proudly served his country for 27 years of which 21 of those years was spent as a green beret. For his faithful service, Joe earned several awards and commendations and retired as a Sergeant Major on June 30, 1978.

On October 22, 1957, Joe was united in marriage to Kathleen Williams in Waynesville, Missouri. They shared over 56 years of marriage together and were blessed with two children: Valerie and Joe, Jr.

After retiring from the military, Joe spent 11 years working for Howards Construction helping to build bridges.

In his spare time, Joe loved hunting and fishing and in his younger years, he loved to skydive. Joe used to say he just loved being alive and enjoyed everything, including hard work. For many years, Joe enjoyed bass fishing tournaments and he liked to win. While in the Army, he liked sport parachute competitions. He also enjoyed handball, football and baseball.

Joe passed away Thursday, December 5, 2013 in his home in his beloved

Colley Holler surrounded by his family. He had attained the age of 79 years. He will be sadly missed by all those that knew and loved him.

Joe leaves to cherish his memory, his wife: Kathleen Garner of Waynesville, MO; two children: Valerie and Joe R. Garner, both of Waynesville, MO; one grandson: Jamie Lee Garner and wife Angie of Waynesville, MO; three great grandchildren: Jeremiah, Nevaeh and Riley Garner; six siblings: Lewis Garner of St. Louis, MO, Sally Peters and husband Carlos of Chattanooga, TN, Roger Garner of Chattanooga, TN, Jerry Garner of St. Simmons Island, GA, Larry Garner of Chattanooga, TN and Alan Garner of Atlanta, GA; special uncle: Ken Garner of Chattanooga, TN; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 9, 2013 in the Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert with Rev. Christopher Hendrix officiating. Soloist Gilbert Crismon provided the music. Serving as escorts were will Miller, Eddie Miller, Tony Dean Crismon, Jacob Kelley, Arron Browner and Jordan Kelley.

Burial with military honors followed in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery – Fort Leonard Wood. Military honors were provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

# Cemetery Details

## Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H  
Waynesville, MO 65583

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 9. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
(573) 774-6111  
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

## Service

DEC 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert  
202 Historic 66 W.  
Waynesville, MO 65583  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - December 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CS

*RIP Soldier, read the book many years ago 'Copperhead' , exciting but yet sad that our own Government would coverup the POW truth.*

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**Curtis S.** - May 07 at 12:47 AM



“ *SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM

DC

“ *1 file added to the album Fort Gulick Photos*



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**Don Chairez** - March 16, 2017 at 07:29 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album *Fort Gulick Photos*



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**Don Chairez** - March 16, 2017 at 07:28 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album *Fort Gulick Photos*



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**Don Chairez** - March 16, 2017 at 07:25 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album *Fort Gulick Photos*



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**Don Chairez** - March 16, 2017 at 07:23 PM

“ To the family of Joe Garner:

*I was sad when my brother David sent me the obituary of Joe. My father Pete went fishing with Joe often in Fort Gulick. My mother Cleo talked about Kathy Garner of Waynesville, as if she was her best friend. My mother was an immigrant from Mexico, my father a 7th generation Mexican American from San Antonio, Texas. Fifty years ago in Fort Gulick, two White southerners treated my father and mother as brother and sister. I guess that is what noble Americans from the heartland do, and they did it well.*

*My father Pete died in 1973 just a few years after we left Fort Gulick. In addition to treating my father with dignity, Joe was my hero. I remember one Memorial Day when Joe jumped out of an airplane skydiving, and landed his parachute right on target. I thought Joe could do no wrong, and for years as a child, I fantasized about being a skydiver. Of course, that was before I realized I was afraid of heights. Gulick also left me with a fear of snakes, sharks and wild animals.*

*I visited Fort Gulick in October 2012 which was fifty years after we first arrived in Panama. I took pictures of where we lived, but am sad to report that Gulick has been destroyed. The memories of kindness, brotherhood and bravery of good people like the Garners helped mold me into the person I am today.*

*Until reading Joe's obituary, I always thought Joe's last name was Gardner. I guess because of my mother's accent, we were remembering wrong, but we will never forget all the goodness that Joe and Kathy shared with my parents fifty years ago in a faraway dangerous place.*

*Don Chairez  
donchairez@yahoo.com*

RP

“ *Injun Joe & I spent a lot of time fishin & huntin. Him & Mom made me a part of their family & treated me like a son. Our favorite time together was winter crappie fishin! I'll miss you Ol Man! Save some crappie up there for me! Love You!* ”



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**RAYMOND PREWETT** - December 18, 2013 at 12:43 PM

MS

“ *IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF HIS SERVICE  
TO OUR COUNTRY* ”

*MAY GOD BLLESS*

*MARLIN STEVENS*



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**MARLIN STEVENS** - December 11, 2013 at 10:11 AM

 Bobbie  
Williams

“ *1 file added to the album Great Memories of a True American Hero* ”



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**Bobbie Williams** - December 09, 2013 at 09:33 PM

PM

*I read Joe's book, back around 2000 or so.....and I got his phone number, and called him...He answered himself, and I got the chance to tell him how honored I was to be speaking with him, and how very thankful I was for his service, and that I hoped I wasn't bothering him...But I just had to give him my thanks for what he had done.....I didn't know he had passed until this morning, when I decided to maybe see how he was doing.....From the pictures I gather that he enjoyed his retirement, as he said 'to hunt and fish'..... Thank You, Joe Garner.....paul musselman*

paul musselman - July 23, 2024 at 06:33 PM

BW

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Bobbie Williams - December 09, 2013 at 09:22 PM

BW

“ Joe was my favorite fishing buddy, most men didn't want a girl on the boat with them but Joe didn't mind at all, he taught me to catch fish on Stockton lake and Pomme De Terre lake.. you had to "finesse the bass" Joe would say..after a year or so Joe brought me a book he had written inscribed "to a bass fishing lady, and a good one at that.. prayers of comfort to all his Family and Friends, Watch over us until we meet you again Joe... Bobbie Williams



Bobbie Williams - December 09, 2013 at 09:19 PM

TG

“ For the entire family of my “Uncle Joe”, you have my family’s deepest sympathy, for your loss.  
Joe was always larger than life when I was growing up, and very impressionable on a young boy, as I once was. I will never forget the times we spent with everyone in the family, and all the great stories during those times.  
From watching Joe parachute out of a helicopter, to riding motorcycles with Joey, and just spending time with all the family, these things and memories, I will always cherish.  
I can’t even put in to words my sorrow for the family’s loss, but may God bless everyone in the family, and help everyone through these times.  
Ted Garner and family.

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**Ted Garner** - December 09, 2013 at 06:55 AM

AC

“ Alan Clark lit a candle in memory of SGM  
(Ret) Joe Richard Garner



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**Alan Clark** - December 08, 2013 at 10:34 AM



“ Sue Bowyer lit a candle in memory of SGM  
(Ret) Joe Richard Garner



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**Sue Bowyer** - December 07, 2013 at 05:13 PM

PC

“ Pamela Cox lit a candle in memory of SGM  
(Ret) Joe Richard Garner



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**Pamela Cox** - December 07, 2013 at 11:03 AM

DP

“ Delilah & Bob Peschel lit a candle in memory  
of SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner



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**Delilah & Bob Peschel** - December 07, 2013 at 09:27 AM

JB

“ Remember him from Vo-Tech always had a kind word thank you sir  
for your Service.

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**John Bell** - December 07, 2013 at 09:24 AM

PS

“ Pam And Robert Smith lit a candle in memory  
of SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner



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**Pam and Robert Smith** - December 07, 2013 at 09:20 AM

CS

“ Who of us who knew Joe could ever forget the man that walked so tall in his boots. A man who fought valiantly in Viet Nam and served his country in peace times, who loved nature and loved his family and friends. He was truly a great patriot and hero.

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**Connie Simmons** - December 07, 2013 at 09:00 AM

SJ

“ SARA JONES sent a virtual gift in memory of SGM (Ret) Joe Richard Garner



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**SARA JONES** - December 06, 2013 at 02:46 PM