



John Sanders, Jr.

April 18, 1945 - January 12, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John M. Sanders Jr., a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, who departed this life peacefully on Sunday, January 12, 2025, in Centralia, Illinois. Born on Wednesday, April 18, 1945, in Centralia, the son of John Sanders, Sr. and Florence (Hopkins) Sanders.

John dedicated 25 years of his life working for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad and later retired as a skilled Auto Body Technician from Greg's Auto. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy, embodying the true spirit of service and patriotism. John's hobbies reflected his love for the simple joys in life: he was an avid fan of camping, fishing, enjoying country rides, watching TV, and playing cards.

He is survived by his four children: David Sanders and wife Darla of Iuka, Tammy Sanders of Centralia, Karen Garren and husband Jeff of Centralia, and Shawn Sanders and wife Amy of Boyd. John took immense pride in his family, leaving behind a legacy of love and warmth with ten grandchildren: Haley Sanders and boyfriend Pedro, Jonathan Sanders, Nathaniel Sanders and girlfriend Cailynn, Tyler Sanders and wife Amber, Skylar Sanders and wife Emaly, Jacob Sanders and wife Brooklyn, Ethaniel Sanders and girlfriend Skyla, Lucas Sanders, Kaitlyn LaDue and husband Josh, and Hayden Garren; as well as twelve great-grandchildren: Payton, Keyton, Tyler, Ayden, Milo,

CeCe, Mireya, Ivy, Rowan, Bria, Everly, and Braxten. He will also be fondly remembered by his loyal four-legged companion, Angel (Smutley) Sanders. John M. Sanders Jr. will be dearly missed, but his legacy will live on through the love and memories shared by those who were blessed to know him.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Florence Sanders, his beloved wife, Nonda Sanders, two precious great-grandbabies, and his daughter-in-law, Crystal Sanders. His loss is deeply felt by all who knew and loved him.

Private graveside services will be held at a later date at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warriors, an organization close to John's heart. Contributions will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services, located at 235 North Sycamore Street, Centralia, Illinois 62801, or by calling (618) 532-3523. The family invites friends and loved ones to share their memories and offer condolences online by visiting <http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com> and the Funeral Home Facebook Page.