

Gary Reese Ishley

August 5, 1948 ~ April 7, 2023

Gary Reese Ishley, born August 5th, 1948, passed away peacefully April 7th, 2023 at 74 years old.

Gary was a wonderful husband, brother, uncle, and friend. He had 6 stepchildren and considered their children his grandchildren. Although he battled health problems for many years, our papa bear always had a smile, hug, huge laugh, and an endless arsenal of jokes.

We think of him now as being pain free, surrounded by loved ones, doing all the things he wanted to do in life but could not.

Gary was a talented carpenter and was most proud of his beautiful home that he built with his own hands. His home is a museum of items that read a story of his life. He was an avid motorcycle rider; he traveled the country and imprinted on many people’s lives.

Gary was an 11th Armored Calvary Veteran of Vietnam serving from August 1968 to August of 1969 and a life member of the 11th Armored Calvary Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Gary’s friend Ed Trosper, who was Gary's first task commander in Vietnam, added that “Being a friend to him was a real pleasure!” He called it brotherly love. Thank you, Ed!

Gary was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Reese, father, Gabriel Ishley, and brother-in-law, Bud Smith. Survived by his wife and best friend, Deborah, his loving sister Sharon Smith and her daughters.

He will be forever missed. Please do not send flowers. We are planning a celebration of life and we will inform family and friends privately.