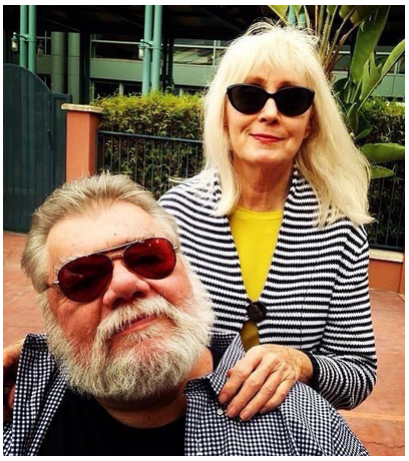

'Jerry' John Gerald Erkelens, Jr.

July 31, 1947 ~ January 9, 2025

'Jerry' John Gerald Erkelens, Jr. passed away at home on January 9, 2025, surrounded by four generations of loving family. Jerry fought a long battle with the effects of Agent Orange—exposure from his time as a combat medic in Vietnam where he earned two Purple Hearts, and was nominated for a Silver Star. He was 77.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Janet, who has been with him since 9th grade, his three daughters, Marnie, Jenny, and Robyn, his grandchildren Victoria, Gracie, Johnny and Ruby and great grandchildren Emmett and Vivian.

Jerry was one of a kind. A force of nature. Incredibly intelligent, endlessly curious, successful, well-read and well-loved. He had the courage to do just about anything and never hesitated to try. He was a respected appraiser of fine art and antiques, an expert on Mormon history, and a talented carpenter who spent countless hours in his wood shop. He and Janet renovated their historic home in Paris, Idaho creating an idyllic haven and gathering place for family and friends. The world feels smaller without him.

In his own words, here is his final message: "Well, folks, it’s been fun and I’ve enjoyed every minute, but this is the big it. I’m off to the great beyond. Drinks with Churchill, Hemingway, and my brother Tom are next. Janet, me love, you made it all worth it. On to the next adventure!"