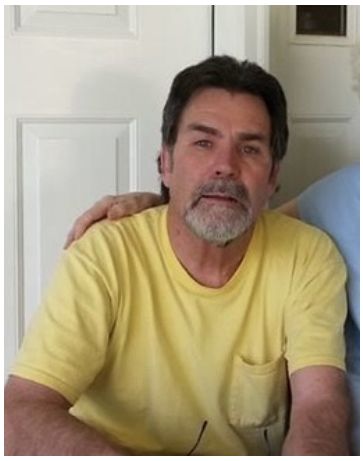

Mitchell Howard Goodspeed

October 4, 1947 ~ October 11, 2024

Mitchell H. Goodspeed, 77, of Mesquite Nevada passed away October 11, 2024 in St. George, Utah from a hard-fought battle with cancer. Mitch was born October 4, 1947 in Moab, Utah to Ralph Keith & Mildred Young Goodspeed. His father died when Mitch was only 4. His mother later married Merrill (Joe) Windley. Mitch spent many years of his youth working on the family ranch in the Moab area, which he remembered fondly. Mitch moved to Salt Lake City when he was about 7, and graduated from Granite High School. After graduation he moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana and attended LSU studying Landscape Architecture. There he met and in 1968 married Carolyn Rome, with whom he had 4 children (Rome, Janette, Kevin & Rani) who he adored greatly. They later divorced but remained good friends the rest of his life.

Mitch married Debra Nelson in 1986 in Evanston, Wyoming; they would have celebrated their 38th anniversary in December. With that marriage he gained a stepdaughter Jill, who he loved as his own. Mitch enjoyed camping, boating and fishing; Flaming Gorge was one of his favorite places. He also enjoyed gardening and spending time in his yard, which he took immense pride in. The 4th of July was a special holiday for him, and he enjoyed celebrating in his yard with family and friends. Mitch was an avid woodworker and built beautiful pieces of furniture. He loved tinkering in his garage and yard and could always be found fixing or maintaining something. He was a proud American and flew the flag faithfully at his home. He and Debra were also active members of VFW Post 4280 in Evanston, Wyoming for over a decade.

Mitch proudly served in the U.S. Army and spent a year in Vietnam in the 1st Cavalry Division from 1968-1969 and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for valor, 3 Bronze Service Stars, an Air Medal, and many other commendations. After returning home from Vietnam, he lived in Colorado Springs and Baton Rouge, and in 1971 he & Carolyn moved to Arizona to work for an electrical contractor. From there he became a Journeyman Lineman, working in Utah and Wyoming for the next 41 years. His career took him from Louisiana to Arizona to Utah and then to Evanston, Wyoming, where he lived until 2022 when he & Debra moved to Mesquite, Nevada to escape the cold winters.

Mitch is survived by his wife Debra, his children Rome (Shane) Simpson of Hooper, Utah; Janette Hovey of Trinity, Florida; Kevin Goodspeed of Salt Lake City, Utah; Jill (Felix) Thomason of Greenfield, Indiana; and Rani (Andrew) Hiller of Farmington, Utah; 15 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and his siblings Keith (Lynn) Goodspeed of Roosevelt, Utah; Dennis (Estella) Goodspeed of Edwards, Colorado; Marilyn (Gordon –deceased) Burt of Sandy, Utah; and Greg Windley of Salt Lake City, Utah. He was preceded in death by his father, mother and stepfather.

A viewing will be held at Larkin Sunset Gardens Mortuary (1950 E. 10600 S., Sandy, Utah) on Saturday, October 19 from 9:00-10:45, followed by a graveside service at 11:00 with full military honors.