



## Weldon "Junior" Griswold

November 11, 1946 - December 8, 2024

Weldon Griswold  
"Junior"

Age 78 of Essex, IL passed away on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, IL. Born on November 11, 1946 in Chillicothe, MO to Weldon and Martha (nee Hubbard) Griswold. He served in the United States Army from January 1966-January 1969 including a tour in Vietnam as an equipment operator in the jungle. On March 8, 1980 he married the love of his life Evelyn Rose Kirchner. From that moment he inherited a family that he regarded as his very own until his departure. Weldon is survived by his son, Jlm "Jimbo" Lenzie of Essex; daughters, Deborah Lenzie-Hults of Limestone and Sylvia Marma of Custer Park, IL; seven grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren; 6 great great great grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceding him in death were his wife , Evelyn Griswold (9-28-15); son Roy Lenzie; grandson, James Roy Lenzie; great granddaughter Zayla Mitsdarffer; parents Weldon and Martha Griswold, and one brother Herbert Griswold. Weldon was lovingly known by many as "Jr." or "Griz". Growing up in Missouri, as a young boy Jr. 's love for the outdoors began as he spent much of his spare time fishing and hunting. After serving his country he spent decades as a skilled welder working for the pipeline system. He settled into his forever home with Evie and continued to hunt and fish, along with riding motorcycles and snowmobiles. Jr. really enjoyed trips

out west to prairie dog hunt and explore the open country. In his younger years this soldier was a force to be reckoned with. In all his years he was also one of the most generous, honest, respectful humans one would ever meet. If you were looking for someone to “tell you like it is with a smile”, this was the guy for the job.

His job on earth was done, and by now he has met his parents to catch up while having some pie Martha baked. No doubt he has been fishing with Herbert. There was likely a hunting trip with Fuji. Jimmy was ready for him to target shoot with some of his reloads. He would have been waiting for Zayla to go ripping by too fast on the four wheeler with that ear to ear smile. Alas, no doubt he found Evie. They have both been waiting patiently for that dance, and if we all listen closely we can hear George Jones playing in the background.

He would prefer we all hold up a glass and cheers to his life well lived instead of shedding tears. Cheers to you Griz.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Private inurnment will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood.

# Cemetery Details

## **Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**

20953 W. Hoff Rd.  
Elwood, IL 60421

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Gloria Swanberg (Griswold) lit a candle in memory of Weldon Griswold*



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**Gloria Swanberg (Griswold)** - September 27, 2025 at 12:26 PM

DG

“ *Dennis Griswold lit a candle in memory of Weldon Griswold*



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**Dennis Griswold** - February 22, 2025 at 08:30 AM

KC

“ I knew Junior when I was growing up. he was about 10 years older than me and he gave me the first motorcycle ride I ever had on his 850 Norton interstate commando. We used to go fishing and rabbit hunting. Junior, and I, and the Sharp boys would be out in the woods or down on the creek. They thought it was funny to take me with them & go to the ornery stuff.

Junior had that low country boy voice and them guys sometimes would tease him about it.

When he went off to Vietnam he had a 56 Ford that he had wore out and he gave it to me I was only about 14 at the time but his father took it and sold it to the scrap man before I could get out there and get it.

After he came back we run around a few times but he didn't stick around long and then he was gone to Illinois.

after that I would see him every few years when I happen to run into him if he was in town and I would always try to call him on veterans Day and things like that just let me know that he wasn't forgotten.

the last couple times I tried to call him I couldn't get a hold of him and then I tried today and the phone was disconnected and then I looked on the internet and found that he had passed.

he was a good honest man that treated everybody that I ever knew good and will square with everybody.

He was a proud veteran and had every right to be.

I would say when I was growing up he was one of my heroes and probably still is.

May God bless his memory...

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**Keith Collins** - January 31, 2025 at 07:12 PM

SM

“ Always remember Jr picking berries and making wine and brandy him and my gpa would drink out in the garage and they would giggle and carry on like teenage boys I know he's up there carrying on with him right now RIP ..gone fishing ...

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**Steven Mccorkle** - January 05, 2025 at 06:56 PM

GR

“ *Condolences Jimbo and family. Jr was a great guy I worked with him a lot of years on the pipeline and I also fished shot guns and frog gigged with him. No matter what you were doing it was a good time.*

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**Greg Ramsey** - December 24, 2024 at 07:43 AM

MC

“ *Sincere condolences.  
Michele and Matt Cannon  
Sue and Pat Foley*

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**Michele Cannon** - December 13, 2024 at 05:52 PM

DS

“ *Always a pleasure to talk with Jr., I know that he will be missed by all. Thoughts & Prayers to the entire family!*

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**Dean Shepherd** - December 12, 2024 at 07:21 AM

SV

“ *Susan Vining lit a candle in memory of  
Weldon Griswold*



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**Susan Vining** - December 11, 2024 at 07:22 PM

LA

“ *Ladena & Pat Appel lit a candle in memory of Weldon Griswold*



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**Ladena & Pat Appel** - December 11, 2024 at 06:58 PM

PK

“ *Paula Kramer lit a candle in memory of Weldon Griswold*



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**Paula Kramer** - December 11, 2024 at 05:02 PM