



John Charles Charbonneau

September 9, 1937 - September 14, 2024

Joseph John Charles Omer Charbonneau, was born on September 9, 1937, in Rolla, North Dakota, to Romeo and Frances Charbonneau. John was a devoted son and a cherished big brother to Raymond. When the boys were young, the family moved to Seattle, Washington, where John developed a love for the outdoors and became a proud Boy Scout. His Scout sash, adorned with numerous merit badges, remains a treasured keepsake for his family, a testament to his dedication and passion for learning, which he instilled in his own sons, who also became Scouts.

From a young age, John worked in fruit orchards and vegetable fields to help support his family. He excelled in school, balancing academics with caring for his younger brother. Both boys shared a deep love for football, a passion that followed them into high school and adult life. John insisted that Raymond attend college and John chose to serve his country.

In June 1955, just three months shy of his 18th birthday, John enlisted in the United States Army. His service took him across the globe, with numerous tours in Korea, and Europe, and three tours in Vietnam. Among these, his first tour with the 82nd Airborne and his time as a MAC-V Advisor to a Montagnard unit in the highlands of Vietnam were particularly significant. "Duty, Honor, Country, Family" became his personal code. After nearly 30 years of service, John retired in 1984.

John's awards include National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 Oak Leaf Clusters), NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army

Service Ribbon, Meritorious Service Medal, 9 Service Stripes, Overseas Service Bars (3rd Award), Overseas Service Ribbon (4th Award) and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and Unit Citation Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

John married Helga Zimprich while stationed in Germany in 1957, and together they welcomed four children: Terry, Ken, Sylvia, and Evelyn. In 1977, he married B.J. Palmer, with whom he shared the joy of raising their daughter, Jamie.

A true lover of life, John was actively involved in Muskogee Grace Episcopal Church and embraced varied hobbies. He was an avid rockhound, skilled marksman, enthusiastic kayaker, and passionate traveler. His love for nature extended to camping and hiking, and he was always eager to share his knowledge of geology as the President of the Rock and Mineral Society. He delighted in teaching students about rocks, gems, and minerals during school science classes. An avid reader of action novels and a fan of country music, John cheered passionately for his favorite teams, including the Saints and Oklahoma State University Cowboys.

John was not only a beloved son, brother, uncle, husband, father, and grandfather but also a guiding light to those whose lives he touched. He passed peacefully on September 14, 2024, at the age of 87, surrounded by the love and prayers of his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family and friends. His legacy of Duty, Honor, Country, and love of Family comforts the hearts of all who loved and miss him.

A memorial service for John will be at 1:30PM, Thursday, October 17, 2024 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with military honors being presented.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 17. 1:30 PM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery
1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Tribute Wall

JF

“ Jennifer F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Charles Charbonneau.

Jennifer F. - October 16, 2024 at 07:24 PM



“ 88 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - October 14, 2024 at 12:27 PM

JC

“ You were my hero, my teacher, my friend
You taught me how to change my tire
How to shoot a BB gun
How to polish and set gemstones
How to make a dream catcher
How to identify edible plants
How to catch a fish and safely release him
And how to cause a little trouble while trying to do a lot of good

We spent every Summer exploring the different states, adventuring up mountains, past glacial lakes, through narrow ravines and into the vast beauty of nature.

You taught me to love the earth and everything on it.

You made everything you could with your hands. Chainsaw stump owls? Easy! Leatherworking your own belts, no problem! Handcrafting jewelry from gemstones you dug out of the ground, simple! You hand made me my first rocking chair, and a rocking horse for my doll to match. You hand built a two-story playhouse in my favourite willow tree, with working wiring. When something broke, you taught me how to fix it.

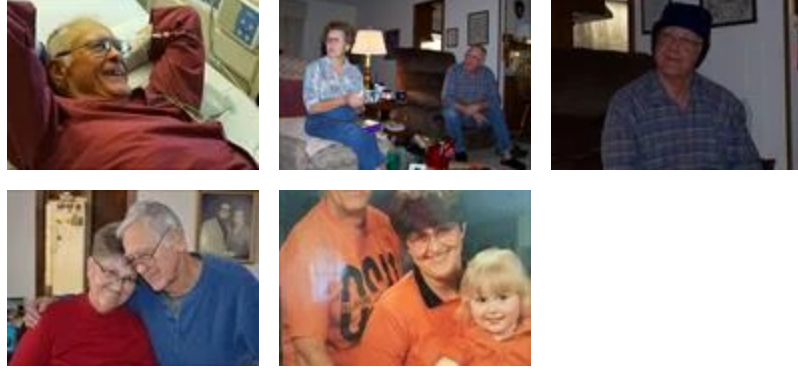
You taught me how to love working with my hands.

We made packet Ramen together when mom wasn't home, and I remember thinking it was the most special meal because I got to help make it too.

You taught me how to appreciate the little things. To take quiet joy in simplicity and peaceful living.

You dedicated your life to your family and the service of your community. You've done so much.

You can rest now. I love you. I will miss you forever.



Jamie Charbonneau - October 12, 2024 at 09:52 PM

KH

Beautiful tribute!

Kaia Holder - October 16, 2024 at 07:52 AM

JF

A beautiful tribute to a man that gave so much of himself to his family and community. He is going to be so missed💙

Jennifer Fielder - October 16, 2024 at 07:21 PM

KK

“*Kelly Keathley lit a candle in memory of John Charbonneau*



Kelly Keathley - October 11, 2024 at 11:33 AM