



Jimmie Ray Kern

September 30, 2020

Jimmie Ray Kern, 90, of Petersburg, died on September 30, 2020 at Sunny Acres Nursing Home. He was born in Sangamon County, the seventh and youngest child of Fairn R. Kern and Blanche Campbell Kern. Jim married Fae June Sielschott on October 7, 1965 at Salisbury Baptist Church with Pastor Walter Hoeffs officiating. Fae passed away April 4, 2011. He married Judith Joy Kern on December 19, 2016 at Salisbury Baptist Church officiated by Pastor Kevin Curry. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers: Hugh Kern, Richard Kern, and Victor Kern and three sisters: Geraldine Wahl, Lucille Wahl, and Ruth Mullens. Jim graduated from Pleasant Plains High School where he excelled academically and was active in sports. He loved to sing and in 1948 won 1st place in the Sangamon County High School Vocal Music Contest. Jim served 2 years in the U.S. Air Force. Before his death, he was the oldest living member of the Salisbury Baptist Church. Jim was a gunsmith for over 65 years. Many gun owners considered him to be the finest gunsmith in the area. He was a grain and livestock farmer for many years, a welder, and once owned a lawn care business in Florida. He also worked in retail sales for several years. Jim is survived by his wife Judith of Petersburg; a son, Donald Jay Sielschott of Chandlerville; a daughter, Cheri Dawn Shumate (Tom) of Greenville, SC; a granddaughter, Amanda J. Harris (Jeff) of Virginia; six nieces, one nephew, and many friends.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at Hurley Funeral Home

in Petersburg from 10am to 11am. Funeral service will immediately follow visitation at 11am with Pastor Kevin Curry officiating. Burial will take place at Salisbury Cemetery in Salisbury, Illinois, following the funeral service.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is in charge of arrangements. Please visit hurleyfh.com to leave condolences and share memories.

Cemetery Details

Salisbury Cemetery

Salisbury, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Burial

OCT 3 (CT)

Salisbury Cemetery
Salisbury, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Jimmie Ray Kern*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *The Stone family remembers Jim as a good neighbor, a good worker, and a great friend and human being. We appreciated the history he related to us all about the Kern family with all their quirks, oddities, and their joy for life. I enjoyed the shooting and hunting that Jim Brandt, Moon Mullens, and I enjoyed with Jim. I was an outsider, but the group treated me like one of the family, a younger brother. I will miss the stories we shared, especially those we missed this past year during the covid catastrophe. We were robbed of many visits and stories this past year. I hope we can share them when we join Jim in his new home..*

*George A. Stone
Decatur, IL
George & Rosella Stone family*

George Stone - May 28, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ *Jim was a wonderful man whom I didn't know well until later in his life. He had a million stories each one better than the next. His life was filled with so many different adventures that he could describe in such great detail. We just seemed to click with each other. I truly wish I would have had more time to know Jim, who was a true gentleman.*

Jonathan Rohrer - October 02, 2020 at 09:17 PM

KW

“ Cheri, I am very sorry to hear of your Dads passing. My heart is with you and your family at this time. Love Katy Watts

Kathryn C Watts - October 02, 2020 at 12:25 PM

TB

“ Sorry to hear of your loss Judy. 🙏
Tammy Bartolomucci

Tammy Bartolomucci - October 02, 2020 at 07:29 AM

GL

“ Jim Kern was indeed the finest gunsmith in the area...And he was a great story teller and a wonderful friend. I enjoyed every minute I spent with him in his shop. His storehouse of knowledge always amazed me. It can never be duplicated.
George Little

George Little - October 01, 2020 at 05:04 PM

MB

“ Meeting you and Judy through taking care of her Sisters was a pleasure as you were such a kind soul to meet . May God bless and rest your soul !

Mary Smith Berndt - October 01, 2020 at 01:06 PM

TE

“ I met Jimmie in Naples, FL when I met his daughter, Cheri, who became my best friend. Thank you for being a great father to her. Happy you are now at peace with God.

Terry - September 30, 2020 at 07:23 PM