



Robert Eugene Gratner

July 29, 1948 - February 9, 2025

Robert Eugene Gratner, age 76, of Rensselaer, IN, passed away on February 9, 2025. Robert was born in Rensselaer, IN, on July 29, 1948, the son of Robert and Ruby (Humes) Gratner.

Robert graduated from Rensselaer High School with the Class of 1966. He married Margaret Sue “Peggy” Henry, on August 28, 1971, and she survives.

Robert proudly served in the US Army in the 101st Airborne Division from 1969-1971. He was a Vietnam Veteran. Robert was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Combat Infantry Badge, Air Medal, and Army Commendation Medal. After his military service, he worked as an Applicator at Fulton Marshall Co-op for 35 years.

Robert attended the Brushwood Methodist Church. He was also a member of the VFW Post #1279. Robert enjoyed working on different kinds of projects including farm equipment, collecting, and farm toys. He enjoyed building toys and working with his hands. Robert loved spending time with his family and sharing his many talents. He was always up for a card game or a board game. He loved helping others in any capacity he could. Robert will be loved and missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

Robert is survived by his wife of over 53 years, Peggy; children, Warren James “Jim” (Emily) Gratner of Indianapolis, IN, Charles Henry (Betsy) Gratner of Carmel, IN; grandchildren, Lance, Miles, Nolan; siblings, Mary Standish of Rensselaer, IN, Carol Spurgeon of Trafalgar, IN; numerous nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; 2 brothers, George & Wayne Gratner and 1 sister, Norma Swartz.

Friends may call on the family on Monday, February 17, 2025, from 2:00 – 7:00 PM CT at Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:30 AM at Jackson Funeral Chapel with Pastor Mike Dillon officiating. Interment will follow at Smith Cemetery, Rensselaer with full military rites.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the VFW Post #1279, 315 E Maple St, Rensselaer, IN 47978, Wreaths Across America (<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/164229/Overview/?relatedId=167111>) or the Brushwood Church, 5474 W 200 N, Rensselaer, IN 47978.

Cemetery Details

Smith Cemetery

1000 S 300 W
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

FEB 18. 10:30 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Military Rites

FEB 18. 11:45 AM (CT)

Smith Cemetery
1000 S 300 W
Rensselaer, IN 47978

Tribute Wall

PD

“Peggy, I'm so sorry to hear about Bob. I just saw it in the church news letter. When I worked at Wright's and he returned from Viet Nam, he would speak of you but he didn't call you Peggy, he always said, "My Margaret."
I thought that was the sweetest thing. He was such a nice guy. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Penny DeVault - March 24, 2025 at 01:26 PM

WH

“Peggy and Family: Sorry to hear of Robert's passing. Seem like I would run into him nearly every time I was in Rensselaer and he always offered a warm greeting. You have my thoughts and prayers.

William O. (Bill) Henry - February 20, 2025 at 05:46 PM

NC

“Neil Clapp lit a candle in memory of Robert Eugene Gratner



Neil Clapp - February 17, 2025 at 07:25 PM

NC

Robert was like a brother. There are many memories that could be shared, but one was as a member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Bud and Sandy Culp were the leaders. Robert, my brother Steven, and I were among several youth who learned a new song for a Barkley Methodist Church program MC'ed by Robert's sister Carol. (She did a great job.) The song was "How Great Thou Art!" I remembered that night from decades ago, and thought of Robert and Steven when our church in Tulsa sang the song in worship (out of the ordinary) on 2-16-2025. I pray blessings for families, extended families, and friends, especially Peg, Charlie, and Jimmy. Neil Clapp

Neil Clapp - February 17, 2025 at 07:50 PM

NC

Steven, Lorna and I were the first ones on Ellis Kelly's school bus in the morning on route to Rensselaer Jr and Sr High Schools. Miles later, when Robert got on the bus, he had his GEOMETRY textbook. He would take out a clean sheet of notebook paper and do his homework. He had the problems solved, proofs written, in excellent legible form, placed folded in his textbook before we got to town! I always looked up to him. This is only one of many reasons why. Neil Clapp

Neil Clapp - February 17, 2025 at 08:16 PM

KC

“*Peggy, Charlie & Jimmy: We are still shocked about hearing of Robert's passing. What a great guy to lose! Kenny's first association with Robert was at a 4H 'slave' auction. Kenny purchased Robert. who was 10 years old. When he went to pick up Robert to work, Bob's dad came out to talk to Kenny. "You know he's kinda of scrawny & not too strong; don't work him too hard."*

He was a whiz at putting furniture together for an auction. How he could sit on one of his legs, on the cement floor & unpack boxes, looked so painful. He would just smile & say. "I could sit like this all day!" We always got a chuckle out of his lunch menu. How so little could keep him going. He was always enjoyable to work with and be around. Kenny & Sandra Culp



Kenny & Sandra Culp - February 17, 2025 at 01:40 PM

MJ

“ Peggy, I’m so sorry ☐ for your loss! My prayers are with you and your family -Mary Shipley Jones, classmate

Mary Shipley Jones - February 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM

RS

“ Peggy and family you have our thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you and give you many precious memories.

Roger and Vicki Steffen - February 14, 2025 at 03:01 PM

TF

“ The Wachs & Hollister families. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert Eugene Gratner.



The Wachs & Hollister families. - February 14, 2025 at 11:43 AM

ML

“ Peggy so sorry for your loss! You will have look to Barb and Sal for comfort, as they have been through this pain of loss, before! Love you Peg, Susan and Mary

Mary and Susan Lewis - February 13, 2025 at 10:48 AM

LK

“ So sorry Peggy about your loss. You're in our thoughts and prayers.



Larry and Judy Koebcke - February 12, 2025 at 06:09 PM

JS

“ *Jeff and Nancy Smith purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Robert Eugene Gratner.*



Jeff and Nancy Smith - February 12, 2025 at 11:18 AM

ML

“ *Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of Robert Eugene Gratner*



Martha Langley - February 12, 2025 at 10:16 AM

DE

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss Peggy. Rosie*



Deb Ellis - February 12, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ *Brent and I are so sorry Peggy for your loss. Bob was a great guy.*



Denise Eldridge - February 12, 2025 at 05:19 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Robert Eugene Gratner.*



February 11, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Eugene Gratner.

February 11, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ *Gary Sheffer lit a candle in memory of Robert Eugene Gratner*



Gary Sheffer - February 11, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ *Ron and I are very sorry to hear of his passing. He was such a nice classmate and we are very thankful for his service. Ron and Marlene Lashbrook.*

Marlene Lashbrook - February 11, 2025 at 06:26 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Robert Eugene Gratner*



Judy Burvan - February 11, 2025 at 05:57 PM

DB

“ *David And Kim Berenda lit a candle in memory of Robert Eugene Gratner*



David and Kim Berenda - February 11, 2025 at 05:44 PM

JS

“ *My sincere sympathy to Peggy and the family. Always loved a chat with Robert whenever we met. Usually talked about days at South Barkley. He will be missed by all who knew him.*

judy Smith - February 11, 2025 at 05:26 PM