



## Rufus Gutierrez Jr.

July 24, 1942 - December 24, 2019

Rufus Gutierrez Jr., 77, died in his Godfrey, IL home on Tuesday, December 24, 2019. He was born July 24, 1942 in St. John, Kansas to Rufus Gutierrez and Frances (Mendez) Gutierrez.

Rufus graduated in 1961 from St. Mary of the Plains high school in Dodge City, KS. He was an award winning athlete who excelled in football, basketball, and track. His love of sports continued throughout his life and he remained a dedicated Jayhawker until the time of his passing. Rufus honorably served in the United States Army from 1961-1964. He was a lifelong member of American Legion post 126 in Alton, IL. After serving his country, Rufus worked at Lindberg Heat Treating Plant until his retirement in 2004.

Throughout his retirement, Rufus enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He enjoyed fishing, perfecting his culinary skills, watching television, and drinking his medically sanctioned daily beer while contemplating his next home improvement project.

Along with his parents, also preceding him in death were six brothers: Bart Juarigui, John Gutierrez, Dr. Melchor Gutierrez, Jesse Gutierrez, Paul Gutierrez, and Christopher Gutierrez who sacrificed his life in Vietnam. One sister, Elsie Gutierrez, also preceded him in death.

Rufus is remembered with love by his three children: Johnny Schalk (Bonnie) Pineville, LA.; Jenni (Jerry) Spurgeon, Pineville, LA: and Michael Gutierrez (Nicole) of Augsburg, Germany. His step-children: Karen Jones, Debbie

McClintock, and John Gibson, all who reside in the Riverbend. His grandchildren Lisa (Tyler) Boudreaux, Alex (Amanda) Hanes, Justina McCartney, J.J. Hanes, and Kevin Gremillion as well as four great grandchildren. His brother and best friend Joe Gutierrez, Tony Gutierrez. His sisters, Frances Dean, Sally Matyear, Stella Leon, and Paula Gutierrez. He will also be lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 5, 2020 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 6, 2020 St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton followed by a military burial at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery at 1:30pm.

Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association.

# Cemetery Details

## Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

St. Louis, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 5. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
4th and Henry Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rufus Gutierrez Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Rufus Gutierrez Jr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Rufus has been a neighbor for many years.  
He was always sharing conversations and laughter and loved sitting  
outside his garage door neighboring with all of us! He will be sorely  
missed by us all!! He was very dedicated to his family!*  
*Judy Lagemann and Danny Evans*

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**Judy Lagemann** - January 04, 2020 at 04:16 PM

SD

“ Dearest Uncle Rufus, I will always remember you laughing & joking with us as kids when we would go to St. Louis to Uncle Paul & Aunt Ernestines house for Thanksgiving weekends You & my Dad & my other uncles would be in the basement playing poker & there was always an atmosphere of happiness surrounding everyone. I always felt your support of my husband Mark & I as missionaries these past 38 years in Spain & I remember at our family reunions how excited you would be to pull out the latest copy of our prayer letters to show us you were reading them! For some special reason you were named Rufus Jr. out of all the 9 brothers of the Gutierrez clan. I am so sad to know you are gone from this earth but comforted by the fact that we will all be together some day in heaven. I know you & my Dad are making a ruckus up there now & laughing & seeing whose joke gets the most laughs. You will always have a special place in my heart! Love you Uncle Rufus

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**Stephanie Gutierrez Dodrill** - December 30, 2019 at 03:56 PM