



Ernie Ray Abner

July 28, 1944 - May 8, 2026

Ernie Ray Abner, age 81 years, a resident of rural Vienna, passed away Friday morning, May 8, 2026 at 1:58 A.M. at Deaconess Regional Healthcare Services of Marion, Illinois.

Ernie was born on July 28, 1944 to Jesse James and Mary Nancy (Maines) Abner in Waynesville, Ohio.

On September 11, 1966, Ernie was united in marriage to Susan K. Marshall in El Paso, Texas.

In addition to his wife, Ernie is survived by: his children: Diana Lynn Abner-Leggett of Vienna, Illinois, Jeffrey Ray Abner of Morristown, Tennessee and Jennifer Ann (Ryan) Abner-Cavanah of White Pine, Tennessee; grandchildren: Timothy Koval, Austin Abner, Matthew Koval, Koty Wilkins, Megan Abner, Breanna (Noah) Abner-Bain, Brock Abner, Brenden Cavanah and Davis Cavanah; 5 great grandchildren; a sister – Virginia (Jim Bob) McBride; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In addition to his parents, Ernie was preceded in death by: a daughter: Joanne Marie Abner; brothers: Hubert Lee Abner, Jess “Junior” Abner and Stanley Edgar Abner; sisters: Beulah Evelyn Davis, Mary Elizabeth Averitt, Minnie Marie Pedigo and Nettie “Gaye” O’Hair.

Ernie was a 1963 graduate of Vienna High School. Following high school, he attended trade school where he studied welding, electrical work, and mechanical repair.

Ernie proudly served his country in the United States Army. During his service, he earned the Good Conduct Medal as well as a Marksman Rifle recognition. Following his honorable discharge from military service, he began his career as an industrial electrician for Walker Boat Yard. He was also a proud member of the Journeyman Union and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W).

In his free time, Ernie enjoyed gardening, fishing, tinkering, and working on cars. He will be fondly remembered for his homemade sweet pickles, which were enjoyed by many.

A graveside service honoring the life of Ernie Abner will be conducted Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 11 A.M. at Gilead Cemetery. Those attending are invited to gather at the cemetery at 10:45 A.M. Johnny Huckelberry will officiate. Military rites will be accorded.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna, Illinois.

Previous Events

Graveside

MAY 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gilead Cemetery
4385 Gilead Church Road
Simpson, IL

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Joe & Samantha Morris lit a candle in memory of Ernie Ray Abner



Joe & Samantha Morris - May 15 at 01:06 PM

TF

“ The Presson Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernie Ray Abner.



The Presson Family - May 15 at 12:32 PM

TF

“ The Presson Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernie Ray Abner.

The Presson Family - May 15 at 12:32 PM

NW

“ Neal & Carol Watkins lit a candle in memory of Ernie Ray Abner



Neal & Carol Watkins - May 13 at 11:45 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ernie Ray Abner.*



May 13 at 08:47 AM



“ *Margaret Mathis lit a candle in memory of Ernie Ray Abner*



Margaret Mathis - May 12 at 10:46 PM



“ *Praying for your family.*



Jennifer Schierbaum Downs - May 12 at 05:17 PM



“ *Prayers for the entire family!*



Mary Lou & Ted Wheaton - May 12 at 10:45 AM

JS

“ *John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Ernie Ray Abner*



John Slack - May 10 at 06:54 PM