



John T. Gillespie

May 17, 1929 - November 21, 2023

John T. Gillespie, age 94 years, a resident of Vienna, passed away Tuesday morning, November 21, 2023, at 1:25 AM at his residence, the Autumn Ridge Supportive Living Center.

John was born May 17, 1929 in Belknap, Illinois. He was the son of Lloyd Gillespie and Blanche (Avery) Gillespie.

On October 10, 1951, John was united in marriage to Geraldine Stonum at the Vienna First Baptist Church. She preceded him in death on April 17, 2008.

John is survived by: three children – John David (his wife, Bonnie Sue) Gillespie, Debbie (her husband, Paul) Sikorski, and Donna (her husband, Rodney) Lovett all of Vienna; grandchildren – Mike Bird, Brian Bird, Valorie Taylor, Erica Lucas, Jason Buchanan, and Evin “Peanut” Betts; great grandchildren – Johnathan Bird, Logan Bird, Wyatt Bird, Shelby Mae Bird, Jason Taylor, Brianne Taylor, Elowen "Redbird" Lucas and Addison Buchanan; 2 sisters – Margaret Graves and Theresa Gray both of Vienna; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, John was preceded in death by: a brother – Charles Gillespie; 2 sisters – Lena Bean and Mary McBride; and an infant sister – Blanche Ruth Gillespie.

John was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He served during the Korean War era and was stationed in Alaska. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. John was a member of the American Legion Post # 306 in Metropolis, Illinois.

John was a lifelong farmer and had also worked as a construction laborer. He was a 50+ year member of the Johnson County Farm Bureau. John was also the night superintendent at Southern Illinois Stone Co. at Buncombe for a number of years.

John was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was a 55 year member and Past Master of Vienna Masonic Lodge # 150 A.F. & A.M. John was also a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Valley of Southern Illinois since 1970.

John enjoyed reading. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoyed cutting wood, mowing grass, and working on tractor restoration projects. John particularly cherished spending time with his family and many friends.

Visitation will be held Saturday morning, November 25, 2023, from 10 AM until 12 Noon at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Masonic rites will be conducted at 12 Noon under the auspices of Vienna Masonic Lodge # 150 A.F. & A.M. Immediately following the Masonic Rites, the funeral service will be held. Pastor Brian Lingle will officiate.

Burial will be in the Vienna Fraternal Cemetery. Military graveside rites will be accorded by the Beggs-Gurley VFW Post # 5222 and the U.S. Air Force Burial Honors Detail.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St.

Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

Cemetery Details

Vienna Fraternal Cemetery

N. 6th Street
Vienna, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 25. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Masonic Rites & Funeral Service

NOV 25. 12:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
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baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Tribute Wall

CM

“ I will always remember the time my cousins took me to KY to buy fireworks. When we got back to their farm we started lighting them; a little while later Uncle John comes rolling in from the fields on his tractor. He heard the whistling of the fireworks and thought the tractor got a flat. Unbelievably he wasn't mad but amused. I'll always remember that smile! Rest in peace Uncle John.

Carolyn Gillespie Miller - December 04, 2023 at 07:04 PM

JH

“ Jerry Hawkins lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie



Jerry Hawkins - November 26, 2023 at 05:26 PM

TM

“ Our sincere condolence to all the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. May the good memories and God's strength carry you through this difficult time. Love and prayers, Tom and Carmen Murrie and family.

Tom and Carmen Murrie - November 25, 2023 at 07:19 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John T. Gillespie.



November 23, 2023 at 06:13 PM

DH

“ Dennis And Pat Harner lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie



Dennis and Pat Harner - November 22, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John T. Gillespie.



November 22, 2023 at 04:30 PM

BW

“ All my love and prayers. Betty Wilson



Betty Wilson - November 22, 2023 at 04:00 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John T. Gillespie.



November 22, 2023 at 02:05 PM

LP

“ Love, Donna and Roy Price planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John T. Gillespie.

Love, Donna and Roy Price - November 22, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John T. Gillespie.



November 22, 2023 at 11:14 AM

TR

“ Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie



Teresa Richerson - November 22, 2023 at 08:22 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John T. Gillespie.



November 22, 2023 at 05:40 AM

BF

“ Betty Corbin and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John T. Gillespie.

Betty Corbin and family - November 22, 2023 at 05:40 AM

JS

“ John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of John T. Gillespie



John Slack - November 21, 2023 at 10:08 PM

DH

“ Dallas And Charlene Harner sent a virtual gift in memory of John T. Gillespie



Dallas and Charlene Harner - November 21, 2023 at 09:48 PM

LK

“ Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie



Linda Koehler - November 21, 2023 at 08:42 PM

AF

“ *Arlene Miles & Family lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie*



Arlene Miles & Family - November 21, 2023 at 08:13 PM

AM

So Sorry to hear about your Dad. Keep you all in my prayers

Arlene Miles - November 21, 2023 at 08:11 PM

DP

“ *Davis And Pat Prewitt lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie*



Davis and Pat Prewitt - November 21, 2023 at 06:56 PM

DR

“ *Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie*



Diane Rainbolt - November 21, 2023 at 05:09 PM

LM

“ *Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie*



Larry and Carolyn McGill - November 21, 2023 at 04:28 PM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jeffress lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie*



Barbara Jeffress - November 21, 2023 at 03:27 PM

KB

“ *Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of John T. Gillespie*



Karen Brumley - November 21, 2023 at 03:23 PM