



Vernell "Bud" Oliver

March 7, 1960 - May 5, 2025

Vernell "Bud" Oliver passed away May 5, 2025, after a long illness. He resided in Reno, Nevada.

Bud was born March 7, 1960 to Sergeant Vernell Oscar "Bud" and Marion Lloyd Oliver in Columbus, Ohio.

With his father in the military, he attended various schools, graduating from Vienna High School in 1978.

Bud retired from the U.S. Air Force proudly serving for 20 years. He was an Air Chief mechanic, a veteran of the first Gulf War, served in Korea, Okinawa, the Middle East, as well as several bases on the U.S. mainland. The highlight of his career was serving as crew chief on the Thunderbird exhibition team.

In civilian life, he worked as a contractor to the U.S. government on military airplanes until his health made him retire. He was passionate about working on airplanes. He ate, slept and dreamed about them.

Bud was preceded in death by: his parents; best friend - Jenifer, daughter - Brittani Oliver, sister - Peggy Zavala, and brother-in-law – Gilbert Zavala.

Survivors include: his daughter – Pagan Oliver; four grandchildren – Brittani's

son Skylar Malyk, Pagan's sons Ryder and River and her daughter Reign Silveira; his sister – Bonnie Oliver and George Healy of Chicago; brother – James (Molie) Oliver of Tunnel Hill; as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He loved his daughters, grandchildren, Molly Hatchet, David Bowie, the Eagles, and Pink Floyd. Bud was an accomplished drummer, playing in a band for a time. He also enjoyed fishing. In fact, his favorite past times were whipping his drums together and playing all night and taking his daughters fishing any chance he got.

Pagan remembers her dad as being super funny...hard exterior but sweet on the inside. Bud will be missed.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no public service. Interment will be held at a later date in the Reynoldsburg Cemetery near Tunnel Hill.

Cemetery Details

Reynoldsburg Cemetery

Reynoldsburg Road
Tunnel Hill, IL

Tribute Wall

JK

“ Joyce Kerley-Schell lit a candle in memory of Vernell "Bud" Oliver



Joyce Kerley-Schell - May 25, 2025 at 07:30 PM



“ Bobby and I wish to extend our deepest condolences to James and the rest of Bud's family.

DEBBIE HORN - May 25, 2025 at 03:39 PM

RA

“ Sorry for your loss James and Family he will be missed, but Remembered by Many! Rabbit and Patty

Randy - May 24, 2025 at 05:51 PM

CW

“ Clearon & Jane(Ross) Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Vernell "Bud" Oliver



Clearon & Jane(Ross) Wright - May 24, 2025 at 12:09 PM

CL

Sorry to read of your loss Bonnie and James and your family, May God comfort you. Sending our sympathies.

Clearon - May 24, 2025 at 12:11 PM

CL

Clearon and Jane Ross Wright

Clearon - May 24, 2025 at 12:12 PM

DO

“ *Bonnie and James-----my condolences.....David Oliver*

David Oliver - May 24, 2025 at 09:47 AM

MH

“ *Martha Henshaw-Crane lit a candle in memory of Vernell "Bud" Oliver*



Martha Henshaw-Crane - May 24, 2025 at 09:40 AM

RL

“ *I am very sad to read of Bud's passing today. I went to some Middle School & 2 years of High School with him. To say he was a character is an understatement in the best possible way!! Bud was a tall, skinny dude at the time with ALOT of gorgeous, long hair. He had the uncanny ability to scale walls & structures like Spiderman as well! It was from these places he would jump out at unsuspecting victims & yell loudly. It scared the daylights out of kids & made me howl with laughter!! Why we found this so amusing, I'm not sure except the genuine surprise (and FRIGHT!) on their faces! I lost touch with Bud after Sophomore year having graduated High School elsewhere & joining the Air Force myself in 1978. I was delighted to read he made a career in the military with such an illustrious record. I only served a decade but lived & travelled literally round the world in the Air Weather Service. Funny that we had the Air Force in common. Bud was hilarious but a kind soul as well. He, indeed, has gone into "the wild, blue yonder"!!!*

R. Lanum-Delatour - May 24, 2025 at 08:09 AM