



Melvin C. Gillenwater

May 14, 1948 - October 24, 2021

Melvin “Mel” Gillenwater was born on May 14, 1948, to the late William and Margaret Gillenwater in McLeansboro, Illinois. Mel was a 1966 graduate of Mount Vernon Senior High School, and later went on to establish and grow a successful commercial real estate development company in Evansville, Indiana.

Melvin was a highly decorated United States Army Veteran who served honorably in the Vietnam War. In 1969, he received multiple bronze stars and the Purple Heart. Melvin’s personal heroism, professional competence, and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the military service, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

“So long as I am not sleeping in the mud, and no one is shooting at me, life is pretty good” was a common phrase that summed up his outlook on life. He returned to Mt. Vernon, began working at Engineers Associates, and purchased an Emerald Green, 1970 Chevy Chevelle SS that spent more time in the body shop than on the road. He loved that car; it was one that he always wished he’d held on to.

In 1970 he married his best friend and wife of 48 years, until Mary Ann preceded him in life’s journey. Mel and Mary had one daughter, Melannie, to which they devoted their lives. As time passed, Mel’s drive and ambition led to many business opportunities including The Carpet & Light Gallery in Mount Vernon, and ultimately the family business that is Melmar Properties.

Outside of work, Mel’s greatest joy was spending time with his grandson,

Barrett, sneaking away for lunch, golf, or cruising around town. Mel and Mary never missed a swim meet or event during the summer, then joined their friends in Florida over the winter months to discuss who really had the best grandson.

As Florida residents he and Mary established great neighborhood friends with whom they enjoyed golf and other activities, but always devoted time to organizations including The Combat Infantry Association and Military Order of the Purple Heart, which directly support veterans and their families. Mel was a lifetime member and former Commander of the American Legion Post #5, VFW Post 114, AMVETS and Disabled American Veterans. He made a difference in many lives by making time for them and setting an example through his own actions.

Mel is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Melannie and Brian Hutchinson of Newburgh, IN; grandson, Barrett Hutchinson; brothers, Randall Gillenwater (Lana), Daniel Gillenwater (Tammy), William Gillenwater (Muriel); sisters, Elaine Bebout (Billy), June Zimmerman (Robert), and Julie Blanford (Robert); brother-in-arms, Max Loffgren, sister-in-law, Janis Boyer; along with many beloved nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Friends may visit with the family from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM on Friday, November 5, 2021, at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street, Evansville, IN 47712 where there will be a memorial service beginning at 6:00 PM. A military service and entombment will be held at Alexander Memorial Park in Evansville on Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 11:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Riley Children's Foundation, 30 S. Meridian St., Ste. 200, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3509 and Combat Infantry Association, 1418 W. Northfield Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 21129.

Messages of prayer, memories and condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

2200 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

NOV 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

NOV 5. 6:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Graveside Service

NOV 6. 11:30 AM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Melvin C. Gillenwater*



Pierre Funeral Home - November 02, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ *Melvin C. Gillenwater*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.*



November 05, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.*



November 05, 2021 at 10:25 AM

LA

“ *Leidos Product Assurance purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.*



Leidos Product Assurance - November 04, 2021 at 06:20 PM

GP

“ *In Honor, Respect and in Memory of our Cousin Melvin Gillenwater, George and MaryAnn Partridge have donated to American Legion Post #5 and to The Combat Infantrymen's Association.*

*Thank you Mel for all you gave to your Family,
to your Community and to your Nation.*

We salute you for all of that.

Now you are free to "Safely Rest" inside the wire.

WELL DONE!

You live in our forever in our memory.

George & Maryann Partridge - November 04, 2021 at 03:35 PM

SR

“ *Sorry to here of Mel's passing. Your Dad was a great friend and we all enjoyed some great times together. He was a big help in a time of my life that I needed a special Friend*

Prayers 🙏

Steve Ralph - November 04, 2021 at 03:25 PM

PL

“ Peter and Pat Love purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.



Peter and Pat Love - November 04, 2021 at 09:31 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.



November 04, 2021 at 08:59 AM



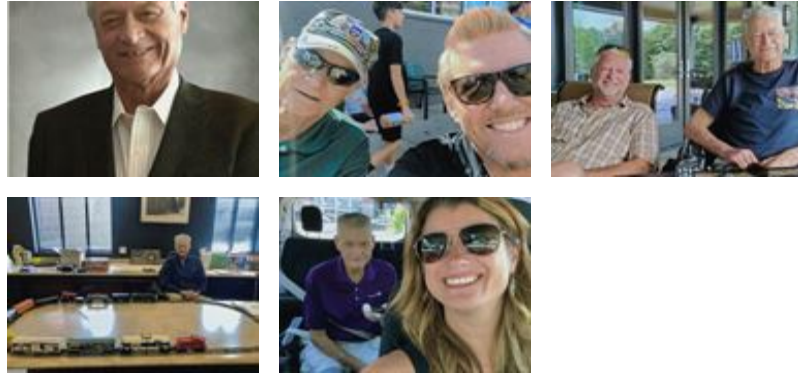
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.



November 03, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ 166 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - November 02, 2021 at 05:45 PM



“ *Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...our thoughts are with your family during this difficult time. Mel will remain in our hearts forever.*

The Staff of The Villas at Theater Commons

The Staff of The Villas at Theater Com - November 02, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.*



October 31, 2021 at 06:52 PM



“ *Prayers to the family, Pray for God to give you peace and comfort.*

Doris & Paul Goodman - October 31, 2021 at 08:19 AM

 Daniel Bernard

“ To Mel's family and friends, for the last several years, we've had the privilege of Mel's companionship and great "esprit de corps". Mel, having been a wounded, combat veteran, was always the first with ideas on how we, in the Combat Infantryman's Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, were going to assist other veterans having gone through the same ordeals we had all survived. We have loved him, and worked with him, and now, we cherish his memory. The world will be a lesser place without him. May consolation dwell in the hearts of his family and friends.

Daniel Bernard - October 30, 2021 at 09:51 AM

GE

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out for the family. May God comfort all of you during this difficult time. Love, Gary and Beth.

Gary Gillenwater and Elizabeth - October 29, 2021 at 08:33 PM

DM

Greg and I and our family are so sorry for your loss sending our condolences

Diana Meador - October 29, 2021 at 08:40 PM

DM

Greg and I and our family are sorry for your loss and we send our condolences

Diana Meador - October 29, 2021 at 08:41 PM

WI

I bought the 70 Chevelle SS described in the obituaries from him.

William Woods

William - October 31, 2021 at 12:13 PM

JF

Mel and his family were one of my closest friends. I so remember being with Mel and his wife Mary at Melannie's swim meets. One of my enjoys was having dinner with him regularly and especially the time we drive to Florida and long conversation we had talking about anything and everything. I will so miss him and will never forget about all those great times we had together. Now I pray for our Lord's peace to be with Melannie and her dear family. May God's rest be with them all! ❤️🥹❤️

John Friend - October 31, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melvin C. Gillenwater.*



October 29, 2021 at 05:52 PM