



William Otho Saunders, Jr.

May 9, 1949 - May 4, 2026

William (Bill) Otho Saunders, Jr., age 76, born May 9, 1946, passed away on May 4, 2026. William was preceded in death by his father, William Otho Saunders, his mother Thelma Leora Saunders (maiden name Cook), and his first wife Linda Wilson Appel. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Joan Saunders, his brother, John Saunders, his sister, Sandra Beck, his two children, Logan Saunders and Samantha Moore, as well as his three stepchildren, Toni, Robert, and Kelly. William had five grandchildren: Cristopher, Charles Jr. (CJ), Branden, Connor, and Cora, two great-grandchildren: Raelynn and Grayson, as well as four step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.

William was born in Harman, West Virginia. He primarily resided in northern Virginia in his youth. He earned his GED in 1969 and enlisted in the US Marine Corp. (1969-1972) and was a Veteran of the Vietnam War. He received the following accommodations: Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal W/4 stars, and Vietnamese Campaign Medal. William served as a member of the VFW and received ordination as a minister, serving in that role through the VFW and privately. He helped other veterans with benefit paperwork completion. William worked as a maintenance supervisor at the University of Virginia Medical Center. William was proud of his Cherokee heritage and was a lover of nature. William and Joan resided in Palmyra, Virginia and spent time enjoying nature

together at home and on motorcycle rides through the Blue Ridge Parkway and other Virginia byways. William was gentle with butterflies and all manner of nature and delighted in the new blooms of spring. He enjoyed time with longtime friends regularly, such as Robert, Corey, and Garnett. William struggled with PTSD from the war, which ultimately led him down a challenged path at the end of his life. His family hopes that he has found the peace that eluded him during his last years.

Services will be postponed to a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make any contributions to a nature conservatory or plant a tree to honor William's love of nature.

Tribute Wall

KG

“ *A ceremony to enter Bill's ashes in the Culpeper National Cemetery will be held at 2pm on Thursday, July 2, 2026. 501 East Chandler Street Entrance. We will meet about 15 minutes early at the first brick building, which houses the restrooms.*

Kelly Gulat - Yesterday at 03:08 PM