Gary Harold Ferns  
Nov. 25, 1935 - Apr. 29, 2016

Gary Harold Ferns, 80, of What Cheer, died at home on Friday, Apr. 29. Services were May 3 at Holland-Coble Funeral Home in What Cheer. Burial was in the Sixteen Cemetery near Thornburg. Military honors were conducted by the James Murphy American Legion Post #319. In lieu of flowers the family would strongly prefer memorial contributions made to: James Murphy American Legion.

Gary Ferns was born near What Cheer, Nov. 25, 1935, the son of Harold and Verna Johannes Ferns. He attended the Glendale country school and was a 1953 graduate of What Cheer High School.

Ferns was a veteran of the United States Army. As a Special Forces Officer, Lt. Col. Ferns served in Germany, Korea, three tours in Vietnam, Venezuela, and Panama. His decorations included the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Silver Star with 1 oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star with 2 oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit Air Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart with 6 oak leaf clusters, Master Parachutist Badge, Vietnamese Parachutist Badge, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palms.

He is proceeded in death by parents, Harold and Verna Ferns; a son, Gary Allen Ferns; a daughter, Alice Lavenne Ott and a brother, Ronald Ferns.

Gary’s legacy will be cherished by his daughter, Melody (Oscar) Lester-Caraway of Kinta, Okla.; his son, Michael Ferns of Indianapolis, Ind.; a brother, Loren (Linda) Ferns of Dixon, Ill.; three sisters, Shirley (Kenneth) Allison of Oskaloosa, Joanne (Jerry) Asher of Beacon, and Gladys Barnina of Eddyville; his five grandsons and eight great-grandchildren.