



Record 5-5-2016  
**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 Harold 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 preceded in death by parents, Harold and Verna Ferns; a son, Gary Allen Ferns; a daughter, Alice Lavonne 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 Barainca of Eddyville; his five grandsons and eight great-grandchildren.