



## Ralph Robert Gardner

March 22, 1944 - December 17, 2023

Ralph Robert “Bob” Gardner, 79, passed away December 17, 2023, after a brief illness. Bob was born March 22, 1944, and raised in West Monroe, Louisiana. Growing up Bob loved fishing with his dad and West Monroe football. At 17, Bob joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in an infantry unit 2nd Battalion 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1966 at the rank of Sergeant. Bob LOVED the Marine Corps. and had the covers and t-shirts to prove it!

Throughout his life Bob loved people and making them laugh — usually with a funny story about his fellow Marines during his time in the service. The best stories were from bootcamp. After the service, Bob drove a charter bus for Trailways Bus Line and was also an 18-wheeler driver delivering carbon dioxide throughout Texas. Bob was also a novice pitmaster and his specialty was pork ribs. If he was grilling, the neighbors would come out of their houses with meat for him to cook while the fire was still hot. This brought him immense joy.

Bob is preceded in death by his mother and father, Jack and Katy Brown, and his son, Brendon Gardner. He leaves behind his wife, Kay Wood of Hutto, sister Linda (Bill) Wylie of West Monroe, Louisiana; daughter Lorinda Gardner of El Paso; sons Charlie and Schon Gardner of Rosenberg, Jack and Chris “Bubbia” Shumate of New Caney and Houston, respectively; and step-

daughter Janet Wood of Hutto; as well as grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial will be held Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 10 a.m.-noon at Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant in Hutto, Bob's favorite place and people.

His family would like to thank the Hutto Fire Department and the nurses, doctors, and staff of Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Round Rock, Texas for their support, kindness, and professionalism. You made a difficult time easier.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Bob's name to your favorite veterans organization.

Semper Fi, Marine.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant-Hutto TX  
551 Ed Schmidt Blvd  
Hutto, TX 78634