

Larry Van Devender, 66

Larry Van Devender, 66, of What Cheer, died unexpectedly Wednesday, July 27, 2011, in Lawton, Okla. Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at the Harden Funeral Chapel in What Cheer. Burial was in the Sixteen Cemetery near Thornburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the family. Friends and family may offer condolences at www.hardenfuneralhomes.com.



Larry Lee Van Devender was born Dec. 19, 1944 in Ames, the son of Juddie and Virginia Clemens Van Devender. He was a 1962 graduate of the Spickard High School in Spickard, Mo. On Oct. 3, 1964, Larry was united in marriage to Linda Sue Rea at the United Methodist Church in What Cheer. Then in 1966, Larry joined the United States Navy where he served as a medic in the D Company of the 1st Medical Battalion for the 1st Marine Division during Vietnam. He began driving truck in 1993, and continued his working career as a truck driver until the present time. At first impression, Larry may have seemed "Gruff". But to those who knew him, he was just a kind hearted teddy bear. Above all, family was the most important to Larry. He always looked forward to weekends when he could teach woodworking to his grandsons, Keegan and Dalton. He will be remembered as a man who gave unconditional love to his family and friends.

Larry is preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, of What Cheer; two sons, Dan (Jennifer) Van Devender of Oskaloosa and Slate Sweat of Provo, Utah; a daughter, Tami (Dan) Tish of Brooklyn; a brother, Ferrell (Janice) Van Devender of Spickard, Mo.; and a sister, Linda Kay Gerard (Melvin Simpson) of Victor. Larry's life was also blessed with seven grandchildren: Keegan, Dalton, Macie, Kiersten, Dawson, Kiah and Ty.

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