

JOSEPH CHARLES "BUBBA, JO JO" SPAIN



Age 79, of Brookline, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Joe was the father of Jeff (Susan) Spain; grandfather "Bubba" of Alexandra (Christopher) Sunday, and Taylor (Zach) Gehl; great-grandfather "Big Bubba" of Cole and Greyson Sunday; brother of Jeffrey P. (Sharon) Spain; uncle of Jesse (Kim) Spain, and Shannon Spain; and longtime best friend of Danny (Diane) Zilch. He is also

survived by his former wife Gerda Spain, numerous cousins, and other loving friends and family.

After graduating from South Hills High School in 1962, Joe joined the U.S. Army. He bravely and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War as a helicopter door gunner of the 101st Airborne Division, where he earned a number of commendations including the National Defense Service Medal, and Air Medal. After coming home from Vietnam, while still in the service, Joe traveled to the state of Washington to become a firefighter. Back home he coached the Brookline Wings, a semipro football team, before settling into life as an owner/operator in the trucking business. Joe had a passion for anything with a motor—from tractor-trailers, to boats, race cars, motorcycles, airplanes. He was known to "buy high, sell low." He was also known for buying a horse saddle, but had no horse. He did have dogs though, and loved them, especially Johnson, his Jack Russell Terrier. For the second half of his life, Joe lived in Brevard County, Florida, where he enjoyed hunting and fishing, playing poker and euchre. Joe spent the last five years of his life back home in Pittsburgh, close to his family.

Arrangements by **BEINHAUER**, 2630 West Liberty Ave., Dormont, where friends and family will be received on Sunday, May 5 from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. On Monday, May 6 at 10 a.m., Joe will be laid to rest at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies with full military honors. If you would like to travel in the procession from the funeral home to the cemetery, please arrive at the funeral home by 9 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the H. John Heinz III Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Hospice Unit, 1010 Delafield Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15240-1005, 412-822-2222. Please add and view tributes at www.beinhauer.com.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb