



John L. Gardner
United States Army
1965 - 1967

John L. Gardner was born in Essex, New York to Edward and Flora (Jerdio) Gardner. There were eight children in the Gardner family. They lived on a dairy farm in Essex.

John was drafted into the Army in July, 1965 and went to Fort Dix, New Jersey. He had 8 weeks basic training and then 8 weeks AIT. He went to Vietnam in November 1965. After Vietnam he went to Fort Benning, Georgia for 6 months. He was honorably discharged on June 30, 1967. John received the Vietnam National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Device; Vietnam Service Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; 1 Oversea Service Bar; Air Medal; Marksman (4.2 Mortar); Sharpshooter (Rifle M- 14).

John married Judy Cross of Lewis, N.Y. on November 26, 1965. They had two girls, Jodie Gardner was born in 1968 in Elizabethtown, New York. The family then moved to Vermont in 1968 where they lived for four years. They had their 2nd daughter Debbie Gardner who was born in 1973 in Burlington, Vermont.

The family moved back to New York State in 1973 and lived in Guilderland for one and a half years. They then bought a house in Halfmoon where they have lived for the last 43 years. John worked in construction for most of his life. He work for 4 years with Munson's Earth Moving in Vermont, then worked for 16 years for County Excavation, and 6 years for RPI. Then John and Judy started their own business, J & J Lawn Care for 20 years. John had two Grandchildren, Morgan Beaulieu and Aaron Bemis, they were his pride and joy.

John passed away in June, 2011. He had three different cancers from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. Sadly his daughter Jodie passed away in August, 2013 after suffering from a congenital heart defect from birth also from John's Agent Orange exposure.

After John's passing his wife received a Presidential Certificate from the President of the United States (President Obama) in memory of John L. Gardner. John and Jodie are laid to rest in the Veterans National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York.