



## Joseph (Joe) Russell Gray, Jr.

March 5, 1944 - July 18, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Joseph (Joe) Russell Gray, Jr.

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Joseph (Joe) Russell Gray, Jr., age 81, passed away on Friday, July 18, 2025 at Memorial Hospital in Carbondale.

He was born on March 5, 1944 to Joseph and Mary Evelyn (Mifflin) Gray in Murphysboro, Illinois. Joe was married to Mary Margaret (Ellis) for over 61 years and she survives.

Joe served in the United States Army during Vietnam and was very proud of his country. He had worked on the family farm and as a truck driver. Joe loved camping, fishing, and wood working.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; children, Regina Joiner and Joseph (Rusty) Russell Gray III and wife Krysty; son-in-law, Kenny Russell; nine

grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and adopted in the heart, Ed and Vicky Winter.

Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his daughter, Kristy Russell; son-in-law, Kevin Joiner; sister, Lois (Bunny) Schultz; and brother-in-law, Wayne Hughes.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, July 25, 2025 at 12:00 PM with Davey Miller officiating at Crain Pleasant Grove – Murdale Funeral Home. Visitation will be held on the day of service from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM at the funeral home.

Interment will follow the service at Alto Pass Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the American Legion Post #127 in Murphysboro.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Alto Pass Cemetery

IL-127  
Alto Pass, IL 62905

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUL 25.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13  
31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-2500  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

## Funeral Service

**JUL 25.** 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (cst)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13  
31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-2500  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

## Interment

JUL **25**. 1:15 PM - 1:45 PM (cst)

Alto Pass Cemetery

IL-127

Alto Pass, IL 62905

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ Miss ya grandpa and sorry I wasnt able to be there today. Work wouldnt let me take off unfortunately. I miss you cracking jokes all the time, being the cool grandpa that always believed in me and also helping me through life growing up. You used to tell me you were like Yoda and were wise cause you had big ears so I always remembered that. I was your first grandchild and im going to miss you so much. Love you grandpa and I hope your having an amazing time camping and fishing in heaven. Love you

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**Ashley** - July 25, 2025 at 07:50 PM

DM

“ Awe so sorry to hear this one heck of a guy with a big smile. So many good times at your home & out & about! Prayers n HUGS to Mary, kids & familys related.  
God bless, RIP!!

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**Debbie Murphy** - July 24, 2025 at 10:47 AM

TF

“ The Gregory Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Joseph (Joe) Russell Gray, Jr..



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**The Gregory Family** - July 23, 2025 at 04:16 PM

CH

“ *Mary, family:  
Prayers and thoughts are with you all.  
Always remembered never forgotten.  
May God hold you in his arms and rest his hands lightly upon your  
heart.  
Craig , Anita Harris*

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**Craig Harris** - July 21, 2025 at 11:05 AM

JB

“ *Elaine and Richard and all so very sorry to hear this. May God  
guide and comfort you in this trying time. Janet Braun*

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**Janet Braun** - July 20, 2025 at 04:45 PM