



## John Lester Gladden

March 14, 1947 - April 1, 2024

On Monday, April 1st, John Lester Gladden, passed away at age 77.

John was born on March 14, 1947 in Springdale, Arkansas to Johnny & Lizzie (Johnson) Gladden. He spent his life serving his country and the Springdale Community. He was a 1965 graduate of Springdale High. John enlisted in the US Army from 1966 to 1969. He was a gunner in the 192nd helicopter assault unit in Vietnam. John retired from the Springdale Fire Department as a Paramedic/ Captain with 29 years of service. In 1975, he was one of the first licensed paramedics in Springdale. In addition, John was an integral part of the Rodeo of the Ozarks. He served on the Board of Directors for 30 years, and he pulled the bucking chutes for over 5 decades. John loved spending his days with friends playing golf at the Springdale Country Club.

John is survived by his sons: John Lincoln (Lisa) Gladden and Joel (Michelle) Gladden; daughter: Stephanie (Trevor) Sisco; brother Butch (Sherry) Gladden; partner Kaaren Biggs; 5 grandkids; 1 great granddaughter as well as beloved nieces, nephews, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Johnny & Liz, and his sister, Sue Canup.

A visitation will be held this Friday, April 5th from 5 to 7pm at Sisco Funeral Chapel. And, a Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, April 19th from 4 to 6pm at the Rodeo of the Ozarks Community Building.

In remembrance of John Gladden's life & service, the family asks that charitable contributions be made to Springdale Fire Department Benevolent Fund P.O. Box 1521 Springdale, AR 72765.

Online condolences can be left at [www.siscofuneral.com](http://www.siscofuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **5**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel  
705 W Meadow Ave  
Springdale, AR 72764

## Celebration of Life

APR **19**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Rodeo of the Ozarks Community Building  
1423 E. Emma Avenue  
Springdale , AR 72765

# Tribute Wall

D(

“ So sorry for your loss. I've know the Gladden boys since diapers, so I have more memories than space allows. He was my first crush, of course with me being 14 and him 17 he wasn't interested. He will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to the family.

Debbie Bankson (Thien) - April 19, 2024 at 01:58 PM

AR

“ John Gladden was one of the Great Ones of SFD. He was a faithful city servant.

Ashley Rogers - April 07, 2024 at 08:25 AM

ZE

“ John was one of a kind, a real straight shooter. He was always helping whether at the club or around town. We offer our condolences to all his family and friends. Brett, Scott, Bill and Darcel Zemke

Zemke - April 06, 2024 at 02:10 PM

BG

“ John was a great man and had many many friends. He took care of my daughter and grandson when I moved out of the Northwest Arkansas area. I knew I had left them in good hands and that he would keep them safe. Thank you John!



Brigett Gladden - April 06, 2024 at 02:07 PM

TE

“ I've had the pleasure of knowing John for as long as I can remember. He and my Dad were good friends and often went quail hunting on our farm when I was very young. One fond memory I have of John is when I accompanied my Dad to the station to see him on a day when I was out of school. Somehow, we ended up at the "Ya'll Come Back Saloon," and I got to sit on the mechanical bull. It made quite an impression on me. When I returned to school the following week, I proudly announced during class share time that the "Yall Come Back Saloon" was my favorite place to visit. Needless to say, my teacher had a great laugh! As I grew up and saw John out and about, (and always at the Rodeo) he always greeted me with his great smile, a big warm hug, and never failed to ask me about my family. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones during this difficult time. John's presence will be deeply missed.

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**Tracy Stansell Easterling** - April 05, 2024 at 01:45 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album John Gladden



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**Joel Gladden** - April 05, 2024 at 01:27 PM

RA

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. I really enjoyed working with him at the Springdale Fire Department.

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**Ron Allen** - April 05, 2024 at 01:16 PM

BL

“ I met John in 7th grade and he has been a very funny and caring classmate. We moved to the golf course area 22 years ago and I have seen John a lot since then. I will miss him and my condolences to his family and friends.



Barbara Ludwig - April 05, 2024 at 11:36 AM

NW

“ Nolan Richardson and Mike Walker purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of John Lester Gladden.



Nolan Richardson and Mike Walker - April 04, 2024 at 03:30 PM

KD

“ Karen And Sherri Davis lit a candle in memory of John Lester Gladden



Karen and Sherri Davis - April 04, 2024 at 12:05 PM

SA

“ John was definitely one of a kind. He and my husband, Butch were very good friends. When Butch passed away suddenly at age 56, John was there for my son, Chuck, and me. John was full of life and he had so many friends. He will be missed by many.

Susan Alderson - April 04, 2024 at 11:30 AM

DC

“ I will miss John’s smile and his great sense of humor. He made me laugh, every time I saw him and I will miss seeing him at SCC and on our golf course, he always waved and said hello anytime I was outside. He was a man with a good heart and I feel blessed to have known him.

Donna Carter - April 04, 2024 at 09:30 AM

BM

“ Jon was a lifelong friend. We lost one of the greatest of all friend. He was a true stand up man. Always one to have your back and kept honesty and integrity in our friendship. Sadness in our hearts. Will be missed. Thoughts are with his family and friends. We feel your pain. Love Jerry and Brenda Harp McCabe.

Brenda McCabe - April 03, 2024 at 11:38 PM

JG

“ So sorry for your loss. John will be missed by all his classmates, family, and friends. Prayer for peace and comfort for all.

Janet Gibbs-Lager - April 03, 2024 at 10:47 PM

BT

“ John was absolutely amazing ! He was a great guy to work with and always had good advise. My prayers for his family



Billy Turnbough - April 03, 2024 at 08:21 PM

JC

“ Wishing the very best for the Bladder family. I was a friend from Lee elementary until graduation in 1965 SHS. When we were young we enjoyed many long days together and endless hours at school. He will be sincerely missed. God Bless



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**Joe Crain** - April 03, 2024 at 08:17 PM

JC

*Sorry misspelled Gladden my poor typing.*

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**Joe Crain** - April 03, 2024 at 08:22 PM

RH

*Sad news indeed. John helped build two homes for me as a part time carpenter. I enjoyed his humor with the others on the crews. Several were firemen working off days for K O Wilkins builder / construction Springdale, Ar.*

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**RON HARRISON** - April 14 at 08:33 PM

KO

“ Kathy O'Kelley lit a candle in memory of John Lester Gladden



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**Kathy O'Kelley** - April 03, 2024 at 04:17 PM