



John J. Gaudette

June 23, 1935 - November 22, 2019

COLEBROOK – John J. Gaudette, 84, of Colebrook, died on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital after a long period of declining health and with his beloved family by his side.

He was born in Norton, Vt., on June 23, 1935, a son to the late Denis and Lorena (Potter) Gaudette. He attended the local school and was raised in Norton and later in Groveton.

At the age of 17, John joined the U.S. Army and began a 24-year career as an Army Ranger and Airborne Infantry Paratrooper. He saw combat action in both Korea and Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart during the Vietnam conflict. He had more than 100 jumps as part of his service record, and retired at the rank of Sergeant First Class.

After his military service, John returned home to the north country and worked for many years as a truck driver for several local companies, including for Gaston Rodrigue, Bruce Haynes and Dan Ouimette. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time, and he continued to serve his fellow military colleagues and veterans as a member of the American Legion Northland Post 47 and the Nulhegan Post of the VFW in North Stratford, where he was a Post Commander, and the VFW Weeks Post 3041 in Lancaster. John also enjoyed watching the birds at his home, and he was an avid NASCAR fan. He was a

loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and friend to many who will miss him dearly.

John is survived by his daughter, Mary Mailhot-Gaudette of Deerfield, NH; his wife of 26 years, Lynda (King) Gaudette of Colebrook, and her children, Jeffrey (Brenda) Gaudette of North Stratford, Ronald (Tamela) Gaudette of North Stratford, Tina Hand of St. Johnsbury, Vt., Tammy (Joseph) Fortin of North Stratford, Wendy (Shawn) Covill of Bloomfield, Vt., and Wanda Riff of Lewisville, Tex.; a nephew who he considered as close as a son, Edward (Sherrie) Gaudette of East Wakefield, NH; three brothers, Wilfred (Vicky) Gaudette of Colebrook, Henry (Carol) Gaudette of Gorham, NH, and William Gaudette of Colebrook; 19 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren; many nephews and nieces; and his beloved four-legged friends, Brandee, Kahlua, and Miss Kitty.

He is predeceased by a son, Herbert, in 1968, and eight siblings, David Gaudette, Archie Gaudette, Arthur Gaudette, Pauline Stohl, Leo Gaudette, Elizabeth Cote, and Paul and Francis Gaudette as infants.

Calling hours will be on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook. A graveside interment service with military honors will follow in the spring of 2020 at the Fairview Cemetery in North Stratford, of which notice will be given.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Mr. Gaudette may be made to the Coös Animal Sanctuary, P.O. Box 345, Colebrook, NH 03576.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of Jenkins & Newman Funeral

Home, Colebrook, NH.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

Mill Road
North Stratford, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH

Tribute Wall

BM

“ SFC Gaudette was a real Paratrooper. I served under his Command in 3rd Platoon 3/325 Airborne Infantry at Ft Bragg. He was a Teacher of Soldiers. He was hard on us, and yes I think to a man (our Platoon of less than 30 men) we were truly afraid of this man. But we loved him so, and I can still hear that gravelly voice. I have seen men well over six feet tall cower at his dressing down. And we loved him more. He was a deep well of knowledge, that we needed to survive. He shared it all, with a gruffness that demanded respect and perfection. When I reported to his office the first day, another Trooper stopped me in the hall and said this, "When you enter the office there will a Lieutenant there with Sgt Gaudette. I recommend that you Report and Salute Sgt Gaudette, not the LT". Strange I thought. And so I strode my tail in there to see this stocky built but short man, sitting there with that 'What do you want' look.....so I came to Attention and Reported. "As Ordered Sir!" One second later he said "you get one thing clear young warrior, this is MY Platoon, right LT?" I looked at the LT, and he smiled and said "You bet it is Sgt Gaudette". I came to understand that Truth. To you all, the Family and Friends that never knew this man on that set of terms, I tell you this, HE was the Airborne. I never met another Para better, nor none finer. Trust me, his men loved him and would have followed him anywhere at any time. When we were quietly whisked away one day 1978, our Battalion was secured for Deployment to the Zaire/Uganda (Africa) area to eliminate Idi Amin and his Army. He walked among us, the Airplanes running, and let us know, "This is it boys, be ready".....He was leading us and yes we were ready. At the point three days in, the President called off the attack, the News all broadcasted of our Mission, and we quietly went home to our families. I hope these stories bring comfort and knowledge to you all. In Paratrooper world, he was a Giant Among Men. And we loved him.

Bud Morgan - January 08, 2022 at 10:42 AM



On behalf of his family thank you! Just know he was Airborne to the very end and was laid to rest in his dress greens! He wanted to jump again more than anything! He is jumping now with Angel wings!

Wendy Gaudette-Covill - November 18, 2022 at 08:25 AM

RH

*“ Lynda, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love you, your cousin
Rose*

Rose Howe - November 29, 2019 at 09:17 PM

DA

*“ David lit a candle in memory of John J.
Gaudette*



David - November 27, 2019 at 07:34 PM

MU

*“ My heart goes out to you and all of you and John's extended family
and friends. May your good memories help you get through these
sad times. Mary Ellen Uran*

Mary Ellen Uran - November 27, 2019 at 11:02 AM

MI

“ My condolences to a long time friends family. Mike Grandmaison

Mike - November 27, 2019 at 10:53 AM

CM

“ Lynda and John's extended family, Sorry for your loss. Enjoyed the few times I was lucky enough to be in his company. His painful journey is over and you are all in my thoughts and prayers. May your fond memories sustain you in the days ahead.

Claire Martineau



Claire Martineau - November 26, 2019 at 06:13 PM

LA

“ Linda And Scott Austin lit a candle in memory of John J. Gaudette



Linda and Scott Austin - November 26, 2019 at 11:16 AM

LA

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Linda and Scott Austin - November 26, 2019 at 11:14 AM

RK

“ Uncle John have a few great memories of you, way back when you first came home from the service and I asked you if you would be my daughter's godfather. To me being your LNA at the hospital. The one that I will always hold dear to my heart is the morning that I went into your room and you took my hand like we were going to arm wrestle. I asked you if you wanted to wrestle. You smiled at me, pretended that we were going to arm wrestle, pulled me over to you, gave me a kiss on the cheek and then started laughing calling me a nut. I didn't realize that would be the last time that I saw you. R.I.P uncle John. Love you



Rosalie King - November 25, 2019 at 11:20 PM

BJ

“ I have many memories but one that has stuck with me throughout all the years, was when i was little and sitting on his lap he would scare me with his snake tattoo making it move like it was real and he would say touch it and he would jump me. wished i could of seen you again before you had passed, you will forever hold a place in my heart. Love you! My thoughts and prayers are with you Linda during this time.

Bobbie Jo - November 25, 2019 at 01:40 PM

MG

“ You will be greatly missed and always have a special place in my heart

Marc Gaudette - November 25, 2019 at 12:21 PM

MH

“ *John was a great man dedicated to his family and his country. You will be missed by all of us. Love Mary,Ron, Lindsay and Michael God speed John rest peacefully our angel.*

Mary Hamel - November 25, 2019 at 05:51 AM

RP

“ *To all the Gaudette family:*

So sorry for your loss, Our thoughts and Prayers are with you and your Loved Ones at a difficult time he will be miss by a lot of people! Growing up we spent a lot of time over your house my brothers talk a lot about it we always had fun when we was there! RIP John

*From the Lanctot family: Thank You for Your Service John
Rosemarie Lanctot Prince and all My Brothers*

Rosemarie Lanctot Prince - November 25, 2019 at 01:58 AM

RP

“ *Rosemarie Lanctot Prince lit a candle in memory of John J. Gaudette*



Rosemarie Lanctot Prince - November 25, 2019 at 01:58 AM

JH

“ Loved by many ❤️



Jennifer Haselman - November 24, 2019 at 11:51 PM

VM

“ Our deepest sympathies to Lynda and family on your loss. May you find comfort in your memories of John. May he rest in peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
The Mahnke family



Valerie Mahnke - November 24, 2019 at 10:02 PM



“ My condolences to you Linda and your family. John was a good man and had a lot to be proud of. My family and I are thinking of you at this difficult time. Shori and Buzz



Shori Mckinnon - November 24, 2019 at 08:12 PM

BB

“ I was so honored to have John as my "Uncle-In-Law" ... having married one of his sister's daughters. He was a wonderful man ... a fellow Veteran ... and one whom I loved and respected as my wife Donna did. Rest in peace, Uncle John!

Brad Bradford - November 24, 2019 at 07:20 PM

FC

“ *Our sympathy to all the family.*



Francine Champagne - November 24, 2019 at 06:53 PM

ML

“ *Mae Lambert lit a candle in memory of John J. Gaudette*



Mae Lambert - November 24, 2019 at 05:24 PM

JB

“ *Linda, my deepest condolences to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. He was such a nice man, and I know he will be dearly missed.*



Judy Hunt Budge - November 24, 2019 at 04:41 PM

EG

“ *Eva Guy lit a candle in memory of John J. Gaudette*



Eva Guy - November 24, 2019 at 03:44 PM

LR

“ David * I are so sorry to hear of your loss Lynda. he was such a nice person. Your in our hearts & prayers. Linda & David Raymond

Linda Raymond - November 24, 2019 at 03:01 PM

Growing up poor



“ I am very sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you all. Love you guys.

John Mackenzie - November 24, 2019 at 01:25 PM

JW

“ Thoughts, prayers and love to all of you! May Gods comforting arms hold you close in this time of loss.

JANET L WASHBURN - November 24, 2019 at 01:05 PM

KR

“ I love you Grandpa! An amazing man with a contagious laugh. I love you infinity💚



Kayleigh Riff - November 24, 2019 at 12:41 PM

GJ

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you, Lynda, and all John's family at this very sad time. I always enjoyed chatting with John when we both worked at the Rest Area.

Ginger Jannenga

Ginger Jannenga - November 24, 2019 at 12:08 PM

TF

“ Thank you for all your love. You made loving you easy and losing you heart breaking. Till we meet again Pops I will love you through the many memories ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Tammy Fortin - November 24, 2019 at 11:46 AM

WC

“ The most amazing and beautiful soul. Thank you for loving me like I was your own. I never felt anything less than absolute care from you. Rest easy Dad. Your work on earth is done. You will forever be missed.



Wendy Covill - November 24, 2019 at 11:46 AM

MC

“ Mary Cote lit a candle in memory of John J. Gaudette



Mary Cote - November 24, 2019 at 11:35 AM

MC

RIP uncle John

Mary Cote - November 24, 2019 at 11:36 AM

CB

“ We met John at the Colebrook Rest Area. Very personable gentleman. I want to extend my sincere condolences to his wife, Lynda, whom I had the pleasure of seeing around the North Country. RIP, John.

Carol A Bond - November 24, 2019 at 11:32 AM