



Doyle Sanford Sanders JR

May 15, 1947 - June 29, 2025

Doyle Sanford Sanders, Jr. was born on May 15, 1947, in Boone County, Missouri, to the late Doyle and Beryl Sanders.

Whether you knew him as Doyle, Sandy, Busch, or Sandman, you likely also knew his dry sense of humor—and how he managed to make friends wherever he went. He spent most of his childhood in Salem and West Plains, where he built lasting friendships.

Doyle served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War where he was awarded several medals and commendations. He attended the University of Missouri where earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. It was during those college years that he met Libby—his future wife and lifelong companion. They were married on September 14, 1974, with his best friend Terry Farmer and Terry's wife Darlene by their side.

After settling down in Salem, his first job was as a city police officer before beginning a long career with the U.S. Forest Service. Doyle was an active member of the American Legion, serving for several years as Post Commander. He was also a dedicated member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, where he served in a variety of roles in his time there. Those who knew Doyle well knew his true passion was firearms—especially cowboy action shooting and educating others about black-powder guns. He was a former member of the Single Action Shooting Society, where he excelled. Doyle passed away at the age of 78. He is survived by his children: Jody Heavin and husband Chris of Salem, and Douglas Sanders and wife Sherry of

Rockwall, Texas. He is also survived by his siblings: David Sanders of Columbia; Dee Sanders and wife JoDean of Columbia; Diane Sanders of Willow Springs; and grandchildren—Trista, Collin, and Kenna.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the Columbariums at North Lawn Cemetery with Pastor Barry Baugh officiating. Memorials are suggested to the American Legion Walker-Rooney Post 99.

Cemetery Details

North Lawn Cemetery

Hwy 19 North
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
dcjames@fidnet.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com>

Previous Events

Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Military Honors

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Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Doyle Sanford Sanders JR.*



July 09, 2025 at 12:35 PM



“ *Although I knew Sandy from our high school days in West Plains, Mo. we became close friends while we both attended the University of Missouri in Columbia. We were roomies, Tiger fans, card players, bbq'ers and pub crawlers.*

We stayed in touch after Sandy moved from Columbia, and always enjoyed our visits on his return trips. My wife Darlene and I had many fun times with Sandy and Libby when we reconnected on their trips to Columbia. Sandy was an expert on black powder rifles and did a number of presentations to my American history classes in Columbia over the years, much beloved by all of my students. I will always have a special place in my heart for the stand up guy and true friend Sandy was to me, and Darlene, over these many years.
Terry Farmer

Terry Farmer - July 05, 2025 at 11:00 AM