



Brian John Russ

May 14, 1948 - June 12, 2025

Brian John Russ, a.k.a. Snake Driver, passed away on June 12, 2025 in Sarasota, Florida from complications following heart surgery. He was 77.

He was born on May 14, 1948 in Warren, Ohio to Peter Russ and Silvia Turner Russ. They preceded him in death as did his daughter Heather Gustafson.

He was named veteran of the year in 2021. He was serving as the commander of the Vietnam Brotherhood Alpha Company and concurrently commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Post 97 in Sarasota. He was known for his kindness, generosity, and helpfulness to all he encountered. He was always willing and ready to help anyone in need. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

He leaves behind his wife, Carole Kujala-Russ, his daughter April Isler, his brother Stephen Russ, his two grandchildren, Zachary Gustafson and Mila Isler, and his three stepsons Jeffrey, David and Daniel L'Amoureux.

Brian will be laid to rest at the Sarasota National Cemetery on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 11 a.m.

A celebration of life will be held at the Disabled American Veterans

immediately after the internment at 7177 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be accepted via the Disabled American Veterans website DAV.org.

Previous Events

Laid to rest

JUL **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Brian was the brother we can never forget. He was always ready to give you the shirt off his back. It was a Vietnam Brotherhood shirt, that's all he Ever wore. He was quick to welcome anyone and always had a joke ready even if it was about himself. Brian was a showman always ready to be put center stage, even to the end he performed his antics and song. He lived life to the fullest and encouraged others to do the same. We are now challenged to continue the legacy for others that he left behind. Snake Driver your light, ante up and deal, by the way you have lunch next week. He will be loved and missed by all who knew him. Santa

Jim and Sharon Currie - July 18, 2025 at 8:18 AM

Jim & Sharon Currie - July 18, 2025 at 08:21 AM

JM

“ In loving memory of Brian J. Russ, aka Snake Driver, as Commander of the Vietnam Brotherhood Alpha Company for many years was always looking out for veterans. He was a friend to all and helped so many. He is missed by all who knew him. With love to Carole... you will always be a part of our Vietnam Brotherhood Family. Fly high Commander. Taco Joe and June Baby

June & Joe Martin - July 10, 2025 at 12:31 PM

MA

“ To Carole, April, & Stephen,
U all have our deepest sympathy & prayers. It is hard to believe Brian is gone. Brian always tried to come & see his family when he was in Ohio. He was extremely proud of his daughters & grandchildren. He was very helpful with the Veterans in Sarasota. If u needed Brian, he would come & help u. I know he will be deeply missed. For so many years, Brian would be at my Mom's house when we were teenagers. Vietnam was a hard time for him , but I wrote letters to him to make sure I was thinking & praying for his safe return. I really do not think u r ever the same once you return after being in a war. God saw how good he was to so many people. I know he is flying high in the clouds watching over all of his family & dear friends. May God bless u all. I will miss my cousin very much.
Love,
Cousin Marilyn & Rick Alberini

Marilyn Alberini - July 06, 2025 at 10:44 AM