



Gordon "Butch" Wayne Fruit

November 12, 1945 - October 30, 2022

Gordon "Butch" Wayne Fruit, 76, of Richland Center passed away on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at Pine Valley Community Village in Richland Center. Butch was born on November 12, 1945, at the Richland Center Hospital to Lester and Myrtle (Haines) Fruit. After his graduation from Richland Center High School in 1963, he attended Platteville University. He then worked on the Sylvester Spangler's farm and served in the reserves at the same time. In the late 1960's, he served two years active duty with the Navy on the aircraft carrier, the U.S. Intrepid, during the Vietnam War. After returning home, he worked at the Badger Ordnance Plant in Baraboo. He farmed for the next thirty years on Ash Ridge where he made a home for his parents until their deaths. In 2002, he started working as a road patrolman for the Town of Bloom until 2007. Gordon lived in the house built by his great grandfather, James Madison Fruit in 1902.

Butch was a wonderful, caring brother with the well-known thundering "Fruit Laugh"!! He loved listening to classical music, singing around the piano with his siblings and whistling beautifully in perfect pitch as he went about his chores. As an avid reader, he retained almost everything he read which made him very knowledgeable about many subjects. Butch enjoyed watching the Packers, Brewers and Badgers.

Gordon is survived by siblings, Clinton (Vergene) Fruit of Dodgeville, Carol (Charles) Dieter of Beloit, Sandra (Randall) Scott of Sun Prairie, and brother-

in-law, Allen Unbehaun of Richland Center. Also many nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester and Myrtle (Haines) Fruit, and siblings: Garland (Laura) Fruit, Marilyn (Ernest) Williams, Wyvonne (Merlyn) Merry, Emmogene (Harold) Emerson, Avis Unbehaun and Madison Hubert Fruit.

The family wants to thank the staff at Pine Valley Community Village for Butch's excellent care. He always spoke highly of all of you. The family also sends a thank you to his hospice care team from Agrace for their compassion, guidance and communication with the family during his decline.

Gordon has requested that there be no formal service. A private, family burial will be held at the Ash Ridge Cemetery at a later date. The Clary Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

B2

“ To the family and friends of Gordon "Butch" Wayne Fruit, another Comrade has been called to the high command. He has gone to the commander of us all. He offered his service to our country in a time of national need, who is now enrolled in that great spirit army whose footfalls cause no sound. But in the memory of man, their souls go marching on. Because of them, our lives are free, because of them the world is blessed. Our deepest condolences from Bower-Gunnill-Dalton VFW Post 2267, Richland Center, WI.



Bower-Gunnill-Dalton VFW Post 2267 - December 20, 2022 at 11:45 PM

LB

“ I love the messages that have been shared. Wonderful memories were made at Grandma and Grandpa's house. So blessed to have been part of such a loving family. My special memory of Uncle Butch was watching him shave in the bathroom mirror. He started to whistle and I was mesmerized. That is when I learned to whistle. Thank you and I will miss you, Uncle Butch. 🥹❤️

Lori Burras - November 02, 2022 at 03:16 PM



“ 59 files added to the album Butch



Jeffrey Williams - November 01, 2022 at 05:51 PM



“ *I remember Uncle Butch as a wonderful uncle...generally quiet and reserved, but he had that unique Fruit laugh that simply made me laugh too. He was one of the smartest people I ever knew.*

I had the pleasure of playing with him in church league softball. We were on the First Baptist church's team, and Uncle Butch could hit the ball a country mile! (At least it seemed that way to me!)

Uncle Butch, along with other members of the Fruit family debate crowd (Uncle Hubert and Uncle Clinton among others), taught me the importance of keeping up with current events, and that people could energetically parley vastly different points of view, and yet still love and respect each other.

We need a lot more of that in the world today.

He will certainly be missed.

Jeffrey Williams - November 01, 2022 at 05:45 PM

DW

“ I have a great deal of respect for my Uncle Butch. My first memory of him is when my brother and I stayed at Grandma and Grandpas when my Mom was a patient at Mayo. I was not quite 5 and Uncle Butch was going to Putnam school. On the way home he found so many mushrooms that he took off his shirt to use to carry them home. I was awed. Later I went to Putnam for a week to get ready to start the next fall. I remember Uncle Butch sitting in the back, probably reading. He seemed so big and impressive. I'll miss you, Uncle Butch.

Denny Williams - November 01, 2022 at 03:20 PM

KW

I learned out on the glass porch that family could debate current events/politics and still laugh and enjoy a meal together. Uncle Butch was always a part of visits to Grandma and Grandpa Fruits house, helping them to be able to stay there all their days. Always my moms baby brother. Rest in peace.

KJ Williams - November 01, 2022 at 07:53 PM

ST

“ Uncle Butch was a very intelligent & talented man. Throughout the years, I was awed by the intensity of the dining room table or 'porch with all the windows' debates among family members and made sure that I steered clear, just in case I was asked my opinion. Uncle Butch was always a kind & soft-spoken uncle, who's rolling laughter warmed my heart. As a little girl, I was excited to ride the bus from the high school to Grandpa & Grandma's. I can still picture my handsome uncle stepping into the bus, smiling & saying hi to Jim & me, and walking to the very back. A few miles down the road, I heard beautiful, warble style whistling - so many trills & turns, right on pitch. I turned around and it was Uncle Butch. ❤️

Susanne Twedt - November 01, 2022 at 02:40 PM