



Vaston Steve Brooks, 74, of Walton, KY, passed away suddenly on August 25, 2021. Steve was born on June 27, 1947, to Campbell and Hattie Bell Brooks in Cardinal, Kentucky. After graduating from Bell County High School in 1965, Steve joined the United States Army. Specialist (SP4) Brooks was a member of the elite 175th Assault Helicopter Company—Outlaws Mavericks—as a door gunner, serving in Vietnam. A true war hero, the U.S. Army recognized Steve for his honorable service with the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, a Marksman badge, a Purple Heart, and an Air Medal—awarded for acts of heroism while participating in aerial flight. Steve maintained many friendships with members of his unit and greatly enjoyed participating in Outlaws reunions across the country. After Vietnam, Steve returned home and continued working in the meat industry, which led him to Heringer Meats. It is there he met his bride-to-be, Mary Catherine Heringer. They wed in 1979, and in 1981, gave birth to their first son, Steve Vaston Brooks. They welcomed their second son, Troy Tyne Paul Heringer Brooks four years later. Their family was completed in 1990 when they welcomed daughter, Olivia Catherine Lee Heringer Brooks (Hughes). Steve and Mary Catherine celebrated 42 years of marriage this past July. Having both worked in the meat business the majority of their lives, together, Steve and Mary Catherine built Brooks Meats, providing "Nothing' But the Best" and serving Northern Kentucky for more than 30 years. Steve was a force of nature, determined to provide for his family and give them the life he felt they deserved. His family meant more to him than anything else in the world, something he talked about often. Anyone who knew him knew that he was the most loving father and husband a family could ask for. He was unendingly proud of Vaston, Troy, Olivia, and Mary Catherine, and always tried his best to support them. Steve was a man full of integrity with a larger than life, charismatic personality, a quick wit, and he'd never turned down a plate of biscuits and gravy. Steve was a devout Catholic and attended All Saints Catholic Church in Walton. He was active in church and was a Fourth Degree in the Knights of Columbus. Steve was preceded in death by his mother, Hattie Bell Brooks, father Robert Campbell Brooks, sister Betty, brother Robert Charles, sister Ina, brother Billy Joe, sister Mary, and sister Debbie. He is survived by wife, Mary Catherine Brooks, Vaston Brooks (Kim), Troy Brooks (Kassie), Olivia (Brooks) Hughes (Corey) and five grandchildren: Cecilia, Tyne, Gus, Cullen, and Arlo; with grandchild number six expected in March 2022. Steve is also survived by his brothers Troy (Crystal), Delano (Kathy) and Dane (Norma), and sister Bebe. Steve was well-loved with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and close friends. Visitation will be held Friday, September 3, at Stith Funeral Home in Florence, KY, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at September 4, 11 a.m. at All Saints Church in Walton, KY. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online condolences may be left for the family at:

