



Charles Kenneth Gabbard

July 21, 1940 - September 28, 2025

In Loving Memory of Charles Kenneth “Sonny” “Gabby” Gabbard

July 21, 1940 – September 28, 2025

On September 28th, 2025, in the comfort of his home with surrounded shelving full of cook books, walls full of his very own history and by the warmth of his chosen loved ones, Charles Gabbard, known affectionately as Gabby or Sonny, peacefully made his journey home to be with the Lord. He was 85 years old.

Born July 21, 1940, in Florence, Kentucky, Gabby lived a life full of purpose, loyalty to his faith, laughter, and the kind of love that leaves deep roots in the hearts of everyone fortunate enough to know him.

A proud United States Marine Corps veteran, Gabby served his country for 10 years with honor and distinction. Stationed in San Diego, California, he earned several commendations and awards during his service, though he rarely boasted—unless you asked him about his travels. Of all the places he explored, Japan held a special place in his heart, and his stories of time spent there would light up any room.

It was during his early military years that he formed a lifelong bond with William “Sunny” and Barbara Loshbough—a friendship that stood strong for an incredible 61 years, a testament to the strength of chosen family.

After the Marines, Gabby went on to earn a degree in business management, but his heart was in the kitchen. He served as a chef at several beloved establishments across Kentucky and Michigan—most notably The Golden Goose and The Radisson. His love for food was unmatched, especially dishes from Asian and Italian cuisines. But nothing compared to the joy he found in cooking for those he loved—hosting his “chosen family” dinners with pride and care, always making sure no one left hungry or without a story to share.

Gabby held a special place in his heart for his sister June and her family, always finding joy in reconnecting and reminiscing. Both would refer to one another as best friends.

Gabby's life was also filled with the presence of friends who became family. He loved spending time with Lacey, Sundae, Beckett Krohn, Sandra Loshbough, going to church every Sunday with his dear friend Joyce, and found spiritual peace when he was given the opportunity to have a private baptism in January 2025 by Pastor Scott, a moment he held dearly in his final year.

His love for music was legendary. A true music junkie, he could identify any Conway Twitty or Elvis Presley song—not just the title, but the year, the songwriter, and the exact memory or historical event tied to it. His mind was a jukebox of eras, and his passion was contagious.

Equally impressive was his love for literature, especially the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Gabby could quote entire poems from memory, often delivering them with theatrical flair. He appreciated the depth and darkness of Poe's writing—perhaps seeing in it a reflection of his own layered, thoughtful soul.

He loved traveling, yellow flowers, and never quite understood the depth of affection he received from his community—especially from his pastor John, the congregation at Family Gospel Chapel, and the incredible support of American Legion Post 160. He was especially moved by the legion making it possible for Gabby to remain independent by installing a ramp at his home—just so he could still go out to dinner, to church, or to the doctor.

Gabby lived for connection—he cherished those who loved him and never took them for granted. And in the end, he gave all of us something unforgettable: not just a man who served, cooked, laughed, and sang, but someone who truly lived.

Family and friends will gather at The American Legion 119 N Center St. Bangor, MI 49013 to celebrate Gabby's life on October 19th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

And so, in the now-famous words shared between him and his oldest friends:

“Hello darlin’... Turn off the lights... the party is over!” Proverbs 17:17 and 18:24.

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **19**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bangor American Legion Hall
119 N.Center Street
Bangor, MI

Tribute Wall

JC

“ RIP Gabby..❤️



John and Carma - October 16, 2025 at 07:47 PM

SL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sundra Loshbough - October 14, 2025 at 12:45 AM

SL

“ Gosh I miss you Gab ... I will find peace knowing you are with Jesus !! Come on Feet !!

Sundra Loshbough - October 14, 2025 at 12:36 AM

LK

“ Our trip to Kentucky in May 2025 - Gabby was so happy to see his sister and her family and was able to enjoy some great food!



Lacey Krohn - October 13, 2025 at 11:01 PM

AF

“ He'd always let me rule the roost as a toddler, No one could tell us anything! ❤️



Annabel Farlow - October 13, 2025 at 10:31 PM