



## David "Sage" Tanner

March 31, 1950 - January 20, 2025

David Joe "Sage" Tanner, Jr., age 74, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 20, 2025, in Grove, Oklahoma. Born on March 31, 1950, in Bakersfield, California to David Sr. and Jonnie (Philpott) Tanner, Sage was known for his outgoing, friendly, and honest personality. He lived a life marked by service, humor, and dedication to his family and community.

Sage graduated from Bassett High School in La Puente, California, in 1969. He met the love of his life and soul mate, Debbie (Buls) in 9th grade. They married on April 7, 1969, and began their life of many adventures and activities together.

The couple moved to Grove in 1985 from Peters Creek, Alaska. Sage embarked on a career that included notable roles as a Sheriff Deputy in Delaware County, Oklahoma, a Marshal for the Cherokee Nation, as well as a truck driver for Simmons Poultry processing plant. He was also employed for a time with District #1 road department.

Sage was an active member of the Foundation Free Will Baptist Church in Grove, Oklahoma. His faith was a cornerstone of his life, providing him with strength and guidance.

Sage was honored to be past Squadron Leader and Commander for the Sons of the American Legion. Possessing many talents and interests, he was a remarkable bass guitar player and singer, a skilled woodworker, and an avid motorcycle rider. His love for the outdoors was evident in his passion for camping, riding his motorcycle and "jeeping". Sage was a dedicated Green

Bay Packers fan and enjoyed rooting for them. His BBQ skills were an enjoyment to his many friends and family. As a great storyteller, he could bring laughter and entertainment to those around him. His Cherokee heritage was a source of pride and honor. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Sage is survived by his wife, Debbie; their children, Scott Tanner (Toni), of Carthage, Texas, Krista Wildermuth (Dave) and Sandra Martin (Todd), and both of Grove; siblings, John Tanner (Valda), Cody Tanner (Kim), Pahleah Jones, Matt Tanner (Cheryl), Shannah Adrian, and Shelley Stuber (Chad); sister-in-law, Karen Buls; grandchildren, Dalton Tanner (Hailey), Cody Wallace, Jason Wallace, Missy Wallace, Christina Millican, Stephen Millican, Devon Tanner (Samantha), Trenton Enochs, David Wildermuth, and Payton Martin; and 8 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Debra Marshall and Ethan Tanner; granddaughter, Paige Martin; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 am on Monday, January 27, 2025, at Foundation Free Will Baptist Church, 23800 US-59, Grove, OK 74344. Nichols-Stephens Funeral & Cremation Services in Grove, OK, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Contributions may be made to his wife, Debbie Tanner, in memory of Sage's at <https://square.link/u/9dCV2l7c> or

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Foundation Freewill Baptist Church  
23800 US Hwy 59  
Grove, OK 74344

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ Richard Pilgreen purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of David "Sage" Tanner.



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**Richard Pilgreen** - January 24, 2025 at 02:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David "Sage" Tanner.

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January 24, 2025 at 10:35 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of David "Sage" Tanner.



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January 24, 2025 at 10:35 AM

BC

“ Brian X and Natalie Cumbie purchased the Full O f Love Bouquet for the family of David "Sage" Tanner.



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**Brian X and Natalie Cumbie** - January 23, 2025 at 01:17 PM

TF

“ *The He-Ro Compression Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of David "Sage" Tanner.*



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**The He-Ro Compression Family** - January 21, 2025 at 08:35 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of David "Sage" Tanner.*



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January 21, 2025 at 07:31 PM

CC

“ *OMG This is a shocker for me Thanks for being my friend Dave, you will be missed by all of us. RIP Buddy*

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**charlie crittenden** - January 21, 2025 at 07:02 PM

AC

“ *Sage will definitely be missed by all. I got to know him through work many years ago and enjoyed our time working together and many many laughs . Prayers for his family and friends.*

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**Adam Cooper** - January 21, 2025 at 06:20 PM

RS

“ Oh how I loved this man ❤️ He had the best personality and loved to joke around.

My deepest and dearest condolences to the family 🙏💔

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**Racheal Schreppel** - January 21, 2025 at 05:01 PM

SM

“ Sage was a good man and friend. He would make you laugh with one of his jokes or the story of the day. It was a honor to know him and call him a friend. Love and prayers to his family.

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**Shawna Moore** - January 21, 2025 at 04:29 PM

LG

Sage was the reason my brothers Doug and Roger and I were reunited with our dad and the family.

His laugh was infectious and I am grateful he found us and we were able to meet again.

Rest in peace cousin, until we meet in glory!

Debbie,  
My brothers and I send you our deepest condolences. Please know you and your family are in our prayers. We wish we could be there with you but we send our love to you.

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**Linda Gorman** - January 22, 2025 at 04:30 PM

JT

“ So sorry for your loss.

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**Jeanie A Takacs** - January 21, 2025 at 04:18 PM