

## Jon Pintello - Obituary March 3, 1947 – April 30, 2024

Jon Francis Pintello was born in Bellows Falls on March 3, 1947 to the late Natale Pintello and Margaret Gillis Pintello. Jon grew up with older brother Ron and at 12 years old welcomed sister Marti, both of whom he cherished and kept a close and loving relationship with.

Jon grew up in Bellows Falls where he served as an altar boy with his favorite cousin; Terry Griffin and graduated from Bellows Falls High School.

Jon served in Vietnam with troop B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry from 1966-68 and was awarded both a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star during his tour of duty. He received the Bronze Star in June 1968 for personal bravery and devotion to duty when he and his crew were given the task of recovering a disabled and burning tank while under heavy enemy fire. Jon jumped onto the burning vehicle and used his rifle to cover his squadron while they battled the flames, eventually recovering the tank and returning it to friendly forces. In July 1968 He received the Purple Heart when he was wounded in action.



When he came home Jon attended Castleton College where he met Val who gave birth to his only child Zara in May of 1970

Jon discovered Blacksmithing which became his lifelong passion and career. He studied forging at Tuley Forge in Sante Fe, New Mexico and spent time learning Native American culture and was invited to attend some sacred rituals. When he returned to Vermont, Jon started Freedom Forge. He created beauty from his anvil and hammer and was commissioned to create many beautiful gates, fences, and stairwells including the Saratoga Race Course. He was a true artist and is best known for his whimsical art pieces that delighted his grandchildren and friends.

Jon made many friends, and he loved them all as much as they loved him. He was charming and funny and had a magnetic personality. If he had a hobby, it was collecting friends and anvils.

In 1988 Jon met the love of his life Peg Gibbud- DeLong and married June 4, 1989. She is angelic, he had a bit of the devil in him and together they formed a perfect union. This union was blissful, and Jon was delighted to welcome two more daughters Molly and Emily

Their life in Castleton saw Jon creating “Rotten Iron” art while Peg created beautiful gardens, pairing her flowers with his trellises, bird houses and other metal creations. In 2003 Jon and Peg welcomed their first grandchild Madilyn, followed soon after by two more born a week apart in 2005; Sophia and Lily.

Other than home, Jons favorite places to be in Castleton were Tomassi’s and the camp at Leonard Land where he would drink beers, tell stories and laugh for hours with more friends than I can list here, but if you are reading this now – please know he loved you.

Jon was a Vermonter, but hated the cold months, and scouted and purchased a perfect getaway home in Lecanto Florida. While he differed politically with his neighbors, they still formed the deepest of bonds, and he created a new group of friends to share laughs and beers with. These friends are still caring for and helping Peg and family while she remains in her Florida home.

Due to the exposure to agent Orange in Vietnam, Jon suffered from CMML which developed into AML, a type of blood cancer. On April 30, 2024 Jon passed away holding Peg's hand.

Jon will be remembered by all who know him. He will be missed by his wife of 35 years, Peg Pintello; His Daughters and son in law, Zara Vincent, Molly and Brian Morgan and Emily DeLong, Grandchildren Madilyn and Lily Morgan and Sophia Buonadonna. His siblings Ron Pintello, Marti Saindon and niece Daynia Burrill, as well as all his friends and family who hold him in their hearts.

Jon Pintello's celebration of life will be held at Tomassi's on 2 Liberty St. Fair Haven, VT on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-4. Please bring your favorite memory to share.

Cremation is under the direction of Brown Funeral Home & Crematory in Lecanto, FL.