



James A. Roberts

July 20, 1933 - November 18, 2022

Lt. Colonel James A. Roberts (Retired) 89, of Casselberry, FL passed away Friday, November 18, 2022. Lt Colonel Roberts was born July 20, 1933, in Chattanooga, TN to the late Jesse Lee & Margaret Alexander Roberts. Lt Colonel Roberts graduated from Tyner High School, Chattanooga, TN. After graduation from high school, he entered the United States Marine Corps and began flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet in March 1953, receiving his commission in July 1954. After the completion of flight training, he was transferred to VMA-23 where he flew the F-9F Panther. Lt Colonel Roberts was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1956. After being promoted, he returned to Corpus Christi, TX for duty as a flight instructor. Later, he was reassigned to the Ready Reserve, attended the University of Tennessee, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. In September 1961, he returned to active duty as a Captain and transition training and was transferred to MCAS (H) New River. Joined the HMM-261 and was deployed aboard the LPH USS Thetis Bay participating in the Cuban operation. In 1963, as a member of HMM-261 in the Republic of Vietnam, he participated in Operation SHU-FLY at Da Nang. Returning to CONUS in July 1964 and was assigned to HMX-1 at Quantico, Virginia. He was then promoted to Major and was designated as a Presidential Helicopter Command Pilot for President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1967 he was reassigned as Assistant Air Operations Officer aboard the LPH USS Iwo Jima and saw duty in the Republic of Vietnam, participating in Combat Operations Ballistic Armor, Fortress Attack,

and Kentucky I. He was reassigned to HMM-162 in October 1969 when he was promoted to Lt. Colonel. In January 1970 he was assigned to a Command position. He retired from the United States Marine Corps after 25 years of service at the rank of Lt. Colonel July in 1979.

Lt. Colonel Roberts is survived by his loving wife Angela Wise Roberts, son, James Michael Roberts, daughter, Patricia Roberts-Orlando, two granddaughters, Mrs. Heather Jerabek and Ms. Sarah Orlando, grandson, Michael Roberts. He was preceded in death by a brother, Jesse Lee Roberts.

The family will be receiving friends from 10:30 – 11:00 AM, Tuesday, November 22, 2022, with a chapel service to follow at 11:00 AM at the DeGusipe Funeral Home 9001 N. Orlando Ave. Maitland, FL 32751. Services will be officiated by Pastor Jennifer Carpenter. The interment will take place, immediately following the service at All Faith Memorial Park 1390 Park Drive Casselberry, FL 32707, with military honors. Reception will take place after Graveside service at the family's residence 1964 Kewanee Trail Casselberry, FL 32707.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

NOV **22**. 10:30 AM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory
9001 N. Orlando Avenue
Maitland, FL 32751
<https://www.facebook.com/DeGusipeFH/>

Funeral Service

NOV **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Reception

NOV **22** (ET)

Family Residence
1964 Kewanee Trail
Casselberry, FL 32707

Reception will take place after Graveside service

Tribute Wall

OH

“ I was an air traffic controller stationed at the Anacostia Naval Air Station. Major James Roberts was one of the Marine Pilots, who flew Marine One transporting the president to and from Andrews AFB as well as other shorter distant destinations within a few hundred miles of Washington DC.

Most of the time said pilots busied themselves operationally flying around the pattern shooting touch and goes. I only knew him by his voice, which was distinguishable due to his southern drawl.

As life happens in 1967, I received orders to the USS Iwo Jima and was assigned to Helicopter Directional Center (HDC) where I controlled via radar mostly Marine helicopters on several types of missions.

When I reported aboard I discovered that then Major James Roberts along with Lieutenant Commander Elmer H. Haupt were the two officers in charge of Helicopter Directional Center (HDC).

I really enjoyed serving under both of those very noble men, and have fond memories of both of them. They were good officer, who had the backs of the enlisted men serving under their supervision. To say the least they made that time pass in a very pleasant and positive way for me and all my fellow air traffic controllers working under them.

Jim, however, was one real cool guy, who never and I mean never was rattled by anything. I never had to worry him second guessing me as an air traffic controller as he always seemed to have confidence in my abilities. That was reassuring. I loved working with him, and was happy for him when I later learned that he had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He made a difference.

*Orin (Chic) Hanson
Traverse City, Michigan*

ORIN R HANSON - March 17, 2025 at 12:23 PM

DH

“ I am so blessed to have been a part of your cancer journey. It wasn't long till I considered you and Angela as family. Love and prayers to your family !!!



Dawn Halter - November 22, 2022 at 12:35 PM

CT

“ Pop, we will miss you. My thoughts and prayers are with you all, as you go through the days ahead.

*Sincerely,
The Tomlin Family*



Courtney Tomlin - November 21, 2022 at 06:01 PM