



James W. Merkison

September 16, 1964 - June 21, 2022

James W. Merkison was born on September 16, 1964 in Orlando, Florida. He went home to be with the Lord on June 21, 2022. The youngest child of James W. and Mattie B. Merkison, James was known as “JW” for many years and later referred to as “Jay” by friends and family. The Merkison family left Atlanta and settled in Winter Park, Florida in 1961 where they returned after 6 years in Orlando.

James gave his life to the Lord at an early age at Bethel Baptist Church in Winter Park, Florida. His family later joined New Covenant Perfecting Ministries. He was a 20 year member of the Life Center Church where he served in the Audio Ministry and assisted with Video Services. James graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1986, with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. After a brief stint with the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, he became a corrections officer for Orange County Corrections Department in 1987. He retired from OCCD in January 2022 from the Public Information Office. His greatest joy came from his two daughters, Jamie and Lauren, whom he shared with his former spouse, Tammy. He took pride in being their father.

James was an avid biker. Since the age of 14 he loved riding motorcycles and found a second family in the Lincoln Park Rams Motorcycle Club. As the baby of the family, he was always the life of every family get together. He was a

great storyteller, often acting out the scenes of whatever funny story he was conveying. He often shared words of spiritual and practical wisdom with family members and friends.

He leaves behind two beautiful daughters, Jamie and Lauren Merkison. He is also survived by his aunt Pearl Robinson and uncle Dr. James Talbert; all his siblings-- Retired Master Sargent Douglas Merkison, Retired Lieutenant Colonel Donald Merkison (Rea), Dr. Barbara Jenkins (Harold) and Dr. Ella M. Merkison; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. Sadly, he leaves behind the love of his life, Sherell Zinnermon and her daughter Tenisha Brown, who brought great joy to his life.

Cemetery Details

Highland Memory Gardens

3329 E. Semoran Blvd
Apopka, FL 32703

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 1. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Life Center Church
63 East Kennedy Boulevard
Eatonville, FL 32751

Service

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Life Center Church
63 East Kennedy Boulevard
Eatonville, FL 32751

Tribute Wall



“ *James W. Merkison*

October 22, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *Greetings Family I just Want You All To Know I Am Sad With You But Also Rejoicing With You. JW Will Truly Be Missed His Kindness His Warm Smile He Was Always A Blessing To Our Family See You Soon Soldier We Loved You Peace And Gods Grace To The Family*



Alicia Massey - July 02, 2022 at 07:28 AM



“ *You were an Officer and a gentleman. A pleasure to have known and worked along side you. Rest in Heaven.*



Lt. G. Garrett - July 01, 2022 at 03:30 PM



“ *Sister Claudine King purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James W. Merkison.*



Sister Claudine King - June 30, 2022 at 09:20 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James W. Merkison.*



June 29, 2022 at 10:18 PM



“ *My condolences to the Merkinson and Tolbert family. J.W. is safe in his arms and that's a blessing. May you find peace in knowing that JW lived a spiritual life and loved everyone he met; even a stranger. Prayers going up for the family.*



Shelia Reid - June 29, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of James W. Merkison.*



June 29, 2022 at 03:34 PM



“ *Ruben & Chauvet Paige lit a candle in memory of James W. Merkison*



Ruben & Chauvet Paige - June 28, 2022 at 12:37 AM

RD

“ *Rickey Dumas purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of James W. Merkison.*



Rickey Dumas - June 27, 2022 at 08:37 PM



“ *Angelia Mitchell lit a candle in memory of James W. Merkison*



Angelia Mitchell - June 26, 2022 at 11:19 PM

SZ

“ *Oh My Sweet Dear James Merkison*

Until We Meet Again

We think about you Always.

We talk about you still.

You have never been forgotten.

And you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts

And there you will remain.

*To walk and guide us through our lives,
until we meet again.*

Love You James (JW) always and forever Sherell Zinnermon



Sherell Zinnermon - June 24, 2022 at 08:32 PM

BS

“ *Betty Starks lit a candle in memory of James W. Merkison*



Betty Starks - June 24, 2022 at 04:31 PM

SS

“ *Shirley Spatcher lit a candle in memory of James W. Merkison*



Shirley Spatcher - June 22, 2022 at 07:17 PM