



James Earl Mead

August 1, 1949 - February 17, 2025

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James Earl Mead, 75, of Tifton, GA, passed away on February 17, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. Born on August 1, 1949, he was raised in Valdosta, GA, with a short time spent in Suwanee, FL, before returning to his hometown.

A man of great skill, strength, and heart, James served his country with honor in the special operations unit of the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971. After his military service, he pursued his passion for architecture and built a career as a general contractor, leaving behind structures as strong and enduring as the legacy he carried in his heart.

In 2004, James married the love of his life, Shirley Mead, and together they built a home filled with love, laughter, and devotion. He was a proud and dedicated father to Zachary and Nicole Chyzik of Hahira, GA; Joshua Chyzik of Illinois; Hannah Chyzik of Atlanta, GA; and Natalee Chyzik of Tifton, GA. He cherished his role as “Poppy” to his beloved granddaughter, Evie Rae Chyzik.

For over a decade, James served as a bus driver for Tift County Schools, where he found joy in his daily interactions with students, offering them kindness and guidance along their journeys. He had a deep love for working

with his hands, whether building homes, crafting woodwork, or fixing things just to make them better. His happiest moments were spent at the beach in St. Simons with Shirley by his side, enjoying the sound of the waves and the simple pleasure of being together.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Skip Mead. He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley Mead of Tifton, GA; his siblings, William P. and Pat Mead of Hamilton, GA; Bobbi and Ed Fletcher of Melrose, FL; Danny J. Mead; and Joy Jennings of Valdosta, GA.

A service to celebrate James' life will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service. A short visitation will take place from 11:00 to 11:30 AM, followed by a service beginning at 11:30 AM.

James will be cremated per his wishes, and while there will be no procession to a cemetery, his memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Should anyone wish to make a donation in lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Though he has left this world, James leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and craftsmanship that will continue to live on in the lives he touched.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service
106 12th St E
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 445-3616
<https://www.reflectioncremation.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

FEB **22**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service
106 12th St E
Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 445-3616
<https://www.reflectioncremation.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of James Earl Mead.*



February 21, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ *Miss Shirley, we are so sorry for your loss and please know that you are in mine and Lisa's thoughts and prayers*

Stacey Bell - February 21, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ *Darien & Kathy Coots purchased the Floor Plant f or Sympathy for the family of James Earl Mead.*



Darien & Kathy Coots - February 21, 2025 at 07:30 AM



“ *Miss Shirley I am so sorry for your loss. May the Lord wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you during this difficult time.*

*Prayers
Love you*



Patricia Rowe - February 20, 2025 at 05:36 PM

JS

Lynn and I are so very sorry for your loss. It is always a mystery to us the way in which the Lord shows his plan but rest assured He has plan. I only knew James for a brief time but his love of life, and love for you were very evident. He is in the Lord's care and will continue to watch over you and his family.

John Stubblefield - February 21, 2025 at 10:03 AM

CG

“ *Cheryl and Greg purchased the Red, White & Blue Large Sympathy Vase Arrangement for the family of James Earl Mead.*



Cheryl and Greg - February 20, 2025 at 01:38 PM

KB

“ *Kailyn and Brittany purchased the Simply Lily for the family of James Earl Mead.*



Kailyn and Brittany - February 20, 2025 at 08:24 AM

KB

“ *Kailyn and Brittany planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Earl Mead.*

Kailyn and Brittany - February 20, 2025 at 08:24 AM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of James Earl Mead.*



February 20, 2025 at 08:14 AM



“ *Mrs. Shirley,
May our God of love and comfort be exactly that for you at this time.
Karla and I are praying for you. Sending our love, Howard and Karla*

Howard H.DuVall - February 19, 2025 at 09:07 PM



“ *Dale and Sandy Rahn purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of James Earl Mead.*



Dale and Sandy Rahn - February 19, 2025 at 08:25 PM



“ *James will be missed he was a friend and customer for many years.
He loved his family and worked hard for them every day. Shirley I
am so sorry for your loss! Mitzi Phillips Griffin Lumber*

Mitzi Phillips - February 19, 2025 at 02:14 PM