



James Robert Whicker Jr.

August 3, 1958 - January 22, 2026

James R. Whicker was born August 3, 1958 in Sumter, South Carolina. On January 22, 2026, at 11:00 in the morning James R. Whicker was called home and escorted by angels into the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Upon entering into eternal peace, James leaves behind his son Zachary Whicker and partner Moriah Rayo, son David Whicker, sister Sherri Diett, beloved granddaughter Emma Whicker, along with his extended family, Brian Kaminsky, Brendan Crawley, Jacob Podolsky, Ken Biller and wife Jennifer. James was an Air Force Veteran with 20 years of active duty. While serving his country he achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant and was awarded the Logistics Plans badge and the Medical Corps badge. He also earned the Air Force training ribbon, small arms expert marksmanship ribbon, NCO professional military education graduate ribbon, Air Force longevity service ribbon (four awards), Overseas long tour ribbon (two awards), Overseas short tour ribbon, National Defense ribbon, Air Force Good Conduct ribbon (four awards), Outstanding Unit award ribbon, and the Air Force achievement ribbon (two awards).

Mr. Whicker worked tirelessly at the VA for 20 years and was actively employed as a Peer Support Specialist till the time he entered hospice care. In his work he impacted countless Veteran's, their families and co-workers. James or J2 as he was fondly known by everyone, served the Lord in everything that he did. He took the time to know people and to hear their sacred stories. J2 was fully invested in the lives of others coming alongside of

them and at times saving their lives all the while pointing them toward their Creator. J2 will be greatly missed by his immediate family, his coworkers, his extended family, and his faith community, which was wide and diverse.

Special thanks to the Pittsburgh VA, HJ Heinz campus Hospice doctors and nurses, nurses' aides, case managers, social workers, and housekeeping staff. The care that he received was professional, understanding, kind and compassionate. Thank you for your service to Veterans.

Funeral services will be held on February 2, 2026, at the Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home under the direction of Sarah C. Balistreri; located at 930 Center Avenue Blawnox, PA 15238 with the viewing beginning at 10:30 and funeral services beginning at 12:30. Interment will be at 2 p.m. at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies with full military honors. Pastor Ken Biller is officiating the services.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
930 Center Avenue
Blawnox, PA 15238

Funeral Ceremony

FEB 2. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
930 Center Avenue
Blawnox, PA 15238

Burial

FEB 2. 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (ET)

National Cemetery of the Alleghenies
1158 Morgan Road
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Tribute Wall

GW

“ My condolences to the Whicker family. I am so glad that James and I reconnected again nine years ago, exchanged numbers, emails, etc. Though we were busy in our own personal lives, we were able to text each other, etc. James was an encouragement to me in many respects. Lord willing, we will meet again, in His time.

Gene Washington - February 15 at 12:04 PM

KG

“ RIP cousin. Sending love and prayers to all of our family.



Kristie George - February 07 at 11:08 AM

PF

“ Phil Griggs and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert Whicker Jr..

Phil Griggs and family - February 02 at 12:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Robert Whicker Jr..



February 02 at 12:41 PM



“ *Such a special brother in Christ who I've known for a very long time. RIP my brother!*

Anthony Griggs - February 02 at 12:37 PM



“ *Laurel K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert Whicker Jr..*

Laurel K. - February 02 at 08:27 AM



“ *With much love; Ken/Jennifer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert Whicker Jr..*

With much love; Ken/Jennifer - January 31 at 11:11 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Robert Whicker Jr..*



January 31 at 11:11 AM



“ *Zofcin Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Robert Whicker Jr..*

Zofcin Family - January 31 at 08:57 AM

ZF

“ Zofcin Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Robert Whicker Jr..



Zofcin Family - January 31 at 08:57 AM

SG

“ Samantha Gyory lit a candle in memory of James Robert Whicker Jr.



Samantha Gyory - January 30 at 11:39 AM

SO

“ Mr. Whicker was not only a respected Veteran, he was also my coworker for the past 10 years and my dear friend. He was one of the good guys.. always kind, always respectful, always putting others before himself. He had such pride in the work that he did with Veterans. He will be missed greatly and will be remembered fondly. My deepest sympathies to his family. May your memories of him bring you great comfort during this difficult time. God Bless,
Samantha Opferman, Administrative Officer, Comprehensive Social Services, VA Pittsburgh

Samantha Opferman - January 30 at 11:25 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Robert Whicker Jr..*



January 29 at 06:19 PM



“ *Sherri Diett lit a candle in memory of James Robert Whicker Jr.*



Sherri Diett - January 28 at 10:37 AM