



James Joseph "Jim" Meli III

February 7, 1944 - August 13, 2021

James Joseph Meli III of Chickasha (formerly of Blair) passed away suddenly Friday,

August 13, at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Jim was born Feb. 7, 1944, in Chester, Penn., to James Joseph Meli, Jr., and Congetta del

Guercio Meli. While his father was serving overseas during World War II, Jim, his sister, and

their mother lived with his grandparents in Drexel Hill, Penn. When his father returned from the

war, the family moved to Boothwyn, Penn. In 1962, Jim graduated from Media High School,

where he was active in football, track, and student council. After graduation, he enlisted in the

United States Air Force, where he was eventually assigned to the missile sites at Altus Air Force

Base. While serving at Altus AFB, Jim also studied at Altus Junior College.

It was while he was stationed in Altus that he met the love of his life, Mileta Kay

Lewelling. They were married Oct. 2, 1964, and together they moved to Minot AFB, N.D., where

he continued to work in the missile sites. He was discharged from the military in August, 1966.

After the young couple lived for a short time in Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Del., they returned to the Blair area in 1968. They made their home east of Blair in 1969 and lived there until January, when they moved to Chickasha to be near their son, James. Jim worked at Sherwin Williams in Altus and the Blair Lumber Yard before embarking on his own career as a paint contractor. He was a respected part of the construction industry and had served southwest Oklahoma for his entire career. Aside from working in many homes over the years, he was also involved in many remodeling projects on Altus Air Force Base, Jackson County Memorial Hospital, the Altus City Auditorium, and many businesses in Altus and the surrounding area.

An active part of the Blair community, Jim was a member of the American Legion Post there, and he served as president of the Blair School Board of Education for many years in the 1970s and 1980s.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, his father-in-law and mother-in-law, J.E. and Modell Lewelling; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Floreta and Jack Jaroszewski, and a brother-in-law, Ray Wall.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mileta, of Chickasha, his daughter, Rhonda and her husband,

Robert, Altus; two sons, James Joseph Meli IV and his wife, Brooke, Chickasha; and Randy Meli

and his wife, Christy, Blair; grandchildren Nick Garrison and his wife, Hannah,

Oklahoma City;

Chase Garrison, Covington, Ga.; Bethany Garrison, Edmond, and Joseph Lehman, Chickasha; his

sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Mike Gumrot, Houston, Del.; a sister, Mary M. Brown,

Wilmington, Del.; his sister-in-law, Arvella Wall, Altus; nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Lone Wolf with Pastor B.J. Armstrong officiating. Burial will be at the Navajoe Cemetery, Friendship, with the United States Air Force Honor Guard performing graveside rites. Public

viewing will begin at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 17, at People's Funeral Home, 1400 W. Main, Lone Wolf. Family will receive visitors from 6 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, at the funeral home.

On-line condolences for Jim can be made by visiting www.peoplescooperativefuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ James Joseph "Jim" Meli III

October 08, 2023 at 02:10 PM



“ James Joseph "Jim" Meli III

October 04, 2023 at 11:28 PM



“ Jim was my brother and I loved him very much. We were very close and only 361 days apart in age! My husband, Mike, and I visited Jim and the family just last week and we spent some beautiful family time together. I will never forget his kindness and gentleness and the wonderful times we spent growing up. I am so proud of him for the way people respected and trusted him.

Carol A. Gumrot - August 18, 2021 at 09:26 PM



Carol, Mike & Family,
We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your brother. He sounded like he was a wonderful man and we are grateful that you were able to spend some precious family time together. Please know you are all in our prayers. Love, Mark and Donna Schanne

Donna - August 21, 2021 at 09:09 PM



“ One of the finest and most pleasant men I have ever met. Never heard an unkind word come from his mouth. A hard and dedicated worker. This world needs more people like him. R.I.P. Jim!

Ken Anderson - August 18, 2021 at 11:19 AM

JD

“ Jim and the "Love of his Life" Melita were great examples of the true family. It has been a gift from above to have known him all of these years. He will be missed but we have the great memories to cling too. May God bless and comfort the family at this time.

Jim Diamond - August 18, 2021 at 09:41 AM

RG

Your friendship meant so much to my Dad and Mom.

Rhonda Garrison - August 22, 2021 at 09:18 PM



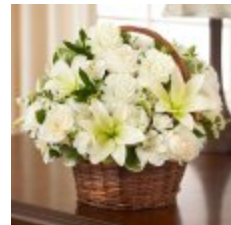
“ Lavender & White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



August 18, 2021 at 01:26 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



August 17, 2021 at 09:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



People's Cooperative Funeral Home - August 17, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy* was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



August 17, 2021 at 12:42 PM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty* was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



August 17, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ *Vanisa and Eddie* purchased the *Healing Tears - Blue and White* for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



Vanisa and Eddie - August 17, 2021 at 05:52 AM

CO

“ *This is Cole, I wanted to acknowledge the few times I spent in Jimmy's company. As a shared memory I would sit and watch while he and my sister stripped metal. We shared many lunches together. I was treated as an equal and enjoyed the conversations we had. To my brother-in-law, I am here for you.*

Cole (Sis)

Cole - August 16, 2021 at 11:46 PM

RO

“ *It was a privilege to have been in the company of such a great man. He produced a man of the same qualities and character in my son-in-law James. We didn't see much of Cecil but what little time we did it was a pleasure.*

From Robin

and Margie and Cole (sis)

Robin - August 16, 2021 at 11:23 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.*



August 16, 2021 at 08:47 PM



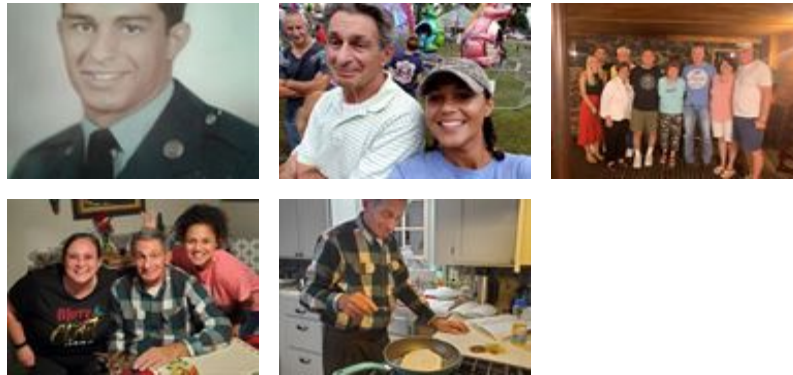
“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.*



August 16, 2021 at 04:46 PM



“ *59 files added to the album Life Tributes*



People's Cooperative Funeral Home - August 16, 2021 at 04:45 PM



“ *We are so very sorry for the loss of such a wonderful father, husband and friend. Words can't convey what you all must be feeling. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs from Nebraska.*



Rachel & Don Linqvist

Rachel Linqvist - August 16, 2021 at 03:02 PM

GK

“ Jim had become a great friend over the last few years. Prayers to his family.

Gary Keller - August 16, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



August 16, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Jim" Meli III.



August 16, 2021 at 02:49 PM

SH

“ Condolances to Mileta Kay and family.

Aunt Sue and family

Shelton - August 16, 2021 at 12:16 PM