



# James Robert Patterson Jr.

MAY 8, 1957 - MAR 26, 2026



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# James Robert Patterson Jr.

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James Robert Patterson, Jr., known to most as Robert, passed away March 26, 2026, in Tavares, Florida, after a brief illness with cancer. He was 68 years old. Born May 8, 1957 to James Robert Patterson, Sr. and Katherine Scales Patterson Lethgo in Fort Bragg, N. C., he was preceded in death by both of his parents. Robert's family moved to Augusta, GA during his early childhood and in 1976, Robert graduated from Westside High School in Augusta. He went on to attend the University of Georgia, Athens, and Georgia Southern University, but remained a loyal Georgia Bulldog supporter and avid, faithful fan for life. The generous support of his beloved Bulldogs earned him the Dan Magill Award in 2001. (Go dawgs)

His career was that of a dedicated serviceman. Robert joined and proudly served in the United States Navy, rising to the rank of GM1, The first and last line of defense. His expertise in the discipline of weaponry led him to become a respected weapons instructor, widely known for his extensive knowledge and his commitment to excellence. This is also where Robert honed his passion for weapons and became an avid gun collector.

Robert also had a passion for life's simple, yet meaningful pleasures. He loved fishing, kayaking, hunting and had a special fondness for East Coast beaches and the mountains of North Carolina. He loved to travel, enjoy good food and took great pride in finding a bargain! No matter the deal, wherever possible, he was going to use his customary coupon!

Robert is survived by his loving wife of more than 35 years, Aryne Patterson, his constant companion in every aspect of life; his brother Douglas S. Patterson of California, his beloved aunt, Toni Scales Corpening and many cousins.

Though Tampa, Florida was home for many years, he retired to Crystal River and most recently resided in Tavares, Florida, where he attended Compass Life Church and spent precious time with his wife Aryne, family and friends.

Whether hanging out with a fine libation, i.e. a dirty martini with blue cheese stuffed olives, or just his raw sense of humor in hand, Robert was always in the middle of the conversation, the



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recipe, or the laughter. And he was never too shy to voice his opinion on a variety of topics. He will be remembered for his sarcastic humor, quick wit, his need for adventure, and his loyalty to the people closest to him. He had a larger-than-life presence, a strong-willed demeanor and the heart of a teddy bear. His presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held at 4979 Hereford Farm Rd, Evans, GA 30809, on Saturday April 25, 2026 at 1 PM.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Steverson Hamlin & Hilbish Funerals and Cremations, 226 E. Burleigh Blvd., Tavares, FL 32778. (352)343-4444. Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall at <https://www.steversonhamlinhilbish.com>



## Tribute Wall

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**Vanessa Sanders** lit a candle in honor of James.

Robert taught my oldest daughter, Kara how to aim when she was 10 years old. And let me tell you something, she is 22 now and dead on her target. If he was around when my dad would walk in the woods with dogs when I was growing up he would wait with me so I wouldn't alone, and every time a bear walk across the road. And he couldn't believe it. He said every time he was around me he would see a bear! His reaction was so funny! Aryne and Robert had such a special love, the kind you don't come across much anymore. I'm so sorry Aryne for your loss. Big hugs!



March 31 at 12:12 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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