



LTC (Ret) James W. Vanzant

September 23, 1938 - February 16, 2026

LTC (Ret.) James W. Vanzant, affectionately known as Jim, passed away peacefully on February 16, 2026, in Arab, Alabama, at the age of 87. Born on September 23, 1938, in Ty Ty, Georgia, Jim lived a life defined by service, strength, and deep devotion to those he loved.

Jim earned his Master of Business Administration and proudly served his country for 24 years. His military career began with four years in the United States Navy and continued with twenty distinguished years in the United States Army. As a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, he demonstrated courage and leadership, earning the Bronze Star for his bravery and service. He retired with full honors as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, carrying with him the respect of those who served alongside him.

While he was proud of his military service, Jim's greatest pride was his family. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather whose steady presence, warm smile, and quiet strength anchored generations.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Paula Vanzant; his daughters, Loriann Lippy and her partner, Rich Brown, Yvette Fife and her husband, Michael Fife; Cyndi Griffin and her husband, Billy Griffin; and Mandy Hill; and his daughter-in-law, Pamela Vanzant, widow of his late son Jimmy Vanzant.

He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Derek Vanzant and his wife, Jessica Pollice; Brooke Dougherty and her husband, Shane Dougherty; Timothy Smith and his wife, Kelly Smith; Casey Smith and his partner, Shasta Dover; Sean LeBeau and his wife, Brooklyn LeBeau; Jesse Fife and his wife, Lacey Fife; Mikey Fife; Amanda Henegar and her husband, Cody Henegar; Taylor Quinlan and her husband, Dustin Quinlan; Courteney Sanders and her husband, Allen Michael Sanders; Claire Griffin; Haley League; and Morgan League along with 23 treasured great-grandchildren who brought him immense joy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eunice Mitchell and Foy Vanzant; his sisters, Nina Simerly and Peggy Hepting; his brother, Virgil Vanzant; and his son, Jimmy Vanzant.

Jim will be remembered as a man of integrity, compassion, and unwavering dedication. His life was a testament to service—to his country, to his family, and to all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of strength, love, and quiet leadership will live on in the generations he helped shape.

A visitation will be held on February 20, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel, 1340 N. Main Street, Arab, Alabama. The funeral service will be 10:00 a.m. February 21, 2026 at the Chapel. The service will be led by Josh Anderson, and the eulogy will be delivered by his daughter, Yvette Fife. Burial will be in Arab Memorial Cemetery with full Military Honors. Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel assisting the family with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 20. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Funeral Service

FEB 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Military Honors Graveside Committal Service

FEB 21. 10:45 AM (CT)

Arab Memorial Cemetery
565 South Main Street
Arab, AL 35016