



## James Michael Kelty

May 11, 1956 - January 12, 2026

CWO4 (Ret) James Michael Kelty, age 69, passed away at his home on January 12, 2026.

Born in Massachusetts and raised in Florida, James enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. He served a long and distinguished 24-year career that took him to duty stations around the world. A Marine Mustang, James took great pride in his service and dedication to the Corps. He later retired to his home in Taylors, South Carolina.

James touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed. He will be interred at Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, SC at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 24th, 2026. Semper Fi, Gunner.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Wounded Warrior or a Veterans organization of your choosing.

# Previous Events

## Interment

APR **24**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Beaufort National Cemetery  
1601 Boundary St  
Beaufort, SC 29902

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ I have a lot of fond memories of Jim. Camping, 4 wheeling, and duty days. I was in HAMS-13 QA and the airframes department while he served as the FE OIC. One week end while out 4 wheeling, I did not have my VHS camera, but I did have my 35mm. As we were breaking out of the wash, I turned to get a picture of him. I'd ask him on the CB to hold until I could get position, and he did. When I was right in front of him, he hit the throttle and as his front end came up, I snapped. Although I got a great pic of the front end coming off the ground, I missed the real shot. He launched his entire scout 3 to 4 ft off the ground. I was truly upset that I missed it, (but amazed he could get that beast that far up in the air, LOL) but Jim took what I had, and blew it up to mount it on his wall with the dash plaque we received from the run. My only regret is that I gave him the negative for his wall photo, and I don't have a copy of it. He did break the rear shackles, but Jim always trailered his rig in just in case he did break something. He learned that after rolling once before LOL. Till we meet again Jimbo. Semper Fi.

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Craig E Danielson - March 19 at 03:03 PM

MW

“Gunner was a great leader of Marines and mentor to all that had the honor to serve with him. We served together in VMFA-451 from 93-97 when we decommissioned the Warlords. He was always looking out for the Marines welfare & was the voice of wisdom in our squadron. He was the master at turning lemons into lemonade, be that an individual Marine or a F/A-18 hanger queen. Never calling attention to himself or bragging-he just made sh!t happen. He made sure you felt the sense of accomplishment when a job was well done - sometimes a hand on the shoulder with a “good job!” or a head nod with “I knew you could fix that”. Simple things, delivered with perfect timing. When poop hit the fan he was a voice of reason that pushed us to perform at a higher level. When mistakes were made, he stood in the gap, propped you up & stood beside you. Gunner was not only a great Marine he was an outstanding human. Semper Fi Gunner, I’ll see you at the gate.  
SgtMaj Wootten USMC (Ret.)

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Mike Wootten - March 19 at 12:07 PM

DA

“As a young Flight Equipmentman, I learned a lot from the Gunner at El Toro along with Top Pinkston and Top Cole. Until Valhalla my Brother. Semper Fidelis.  
David (Klob) Klobnock  
SSgt USMC Retired

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David.klobnock - March 19 at 11:59 AM