



James Martin Waddell

January 9, 1951 - January 17, 2026

James "Jim" Waddell, a true cowboy at heart, rode off into the sunset on January 17, 2026, at the age of 75, leaving behind a trail of cherished memories and a legacy as vast as the Old West itself. Born on January 9, 1951, in Santa Maria, California, to Robert and Verna Waddell, Jim's life was a tapestry woven with tales of adventure, resilience, and a deep-rooted love for his country. From a young age, Jim's spirit of adventure was ignited by unforgettable moments, like the time his father took him to witness the Green Bay Packers Practice, where he played catch with legends Bart Starr and Paul Hornung. Another cherished memory was when he sat on the lap of the iconic Roy Rogers, a moment that fueled his lifelong passion for Westerns and the tales of the Old West. Jim graduated from high school in 1969. He hailed from a long line of military veterans, with ancestors who had bravely served in conflicts spanning from the Revolutionary War to the Korean War. Following in their footsteps, Jim himself served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Era, embodying the spirit of patriotism and dedication to his country. Beyond his military service, Jim's interests were as diverse as the landscapes of the Wild West. He found solace in exploring the realms of history, science, and even the mysteries of aliens. However, it was his love for cowboys and the legendary town of Tombstone that truly captured his imagination and heart. Throughout his life's journey that spanned across many states, Jim found his calling as a professional chef and hospitality expert, using his culinary skills to express his love and care for others through the art of

cooking. Jim often reflected that his greatest achievement was falling in love with Amy, with whom he shared 25 beautiful years of companionship and love. Jim's faith and humility allowed him to achieve 31 years of continuous sobriety. He was willing to turn his will and his life over to the care of God as he understood him to be truly happy and at peace. He lived by the motto, "Enjoy your emotions, they are God-given, and it's better to be happy than rich," embodying a philosophy of gratitude and joy in life's simple pleasures. As the sun sets on Jim's earthly journey, love for his country, his wife and passion for the Wild West will forever be etched in the hearts of those who knew him. James "Jim" Waddell will be remembered not only for his cowboy spirit but also for the warmth, kindness, and joy he brought to all those around him.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **23**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff-Skiatook Cremation & Funeral Home
14206 N Cincinnati Ave
Skiatook, OK 74070
(918) 396-1111
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org/>

Chapel Service

JAN **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

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