



## James Michael Dollarhite

June 6, 1950 - August 7, 2014

James Michael Dollarhite, 64, of Mint Hill, died August 7, 2014, at Novant Health Main Campus in Charlotte, NC.

Michael was born in Stewart, Virginia, on June 6, 1960. He grew up in Collinstown, North Carolina and graduated from North Stokes High School. Instead of being drafted, Michael chose to enlist in the United States Army. There he faithfully served his country for over 20 years before retiring in 1989 with the rank of Sergeant First Class. During his military service, he was awarded numerous medals and honors including the Purple Heart and numerous recruiting awards. After his military retirement, he became a member of the American Legion and did various work with Asplundh Tree Service, Pike Electrical, and even working on his own as a heavy equipment broker.

Michael enjoyed the outdoors and the hunting and fishing it provided. He was also a gifted woodworker and was known to both make his own furniture as well as restore antique pieces. When he could not be outside, he enjoyed watching The History Channel and any programming on World War I, World War II, old westerns, and black and white movies. He also enjoyed Thai food, especially the dishes his wife would make for him. His varied life experiences led him to be the one people would call on with all sorts of questions knowing that "Sarge" would have the answers. Many a young man in search of career guidance found direction through his insights.

Most of all, though, Michael loved his family and friends. In 1972, he married the love of his life, Pia Kamlor, in Bangkok, Thailand. Together, they had three children who in turn blessed them with two grandchildren. Times spent together were special and Michael / "Sarge" will be sadly missed by all who knew this incredible man.

Michael is survived by his wife, Pia, of Mint Hill; three children: Sandy Roberson of Mint Hill, Annie Cooper of Charlotte, and Gary Dollarhite of Mint Hill; two grandchildren: Tanner "Little Bubba" Roberson who will sadly miss his "Big Bubba" and Anelise Dollarite; two brothers: Robin Gray (wife Cindy) of Westfield, NC, and Tommy Gray of King, NC; three

sisters: Donna Martin (husband Ray) of Lawsonville, NC, Jennifer Gray of Thomasville NC, and Janet Gunter (husband Richard) of Sandy Ridge NC; four nephews: Bradley Martin, Austin Gray, Luke Gray, and Jared Gray; and three nieces: Amanda Martin, Rebecca Gunter and Kathleen Gray. He is further survived by his faithful Rottweiler “King Kong” and numerous other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother Mary Lena Dollarhite Gray, and a son-in-law, Brian Roberson.

Michael’s family has given the privilege of caring for them to the family of Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home, 475 Margaret Wallace Road, Mathews. The family will receive friends at 2 PM on Friday at the funeral home with services to be held at 2:30 in the funeral home chapel. Following services, Michael will be taken in procession to his final place of earthly rest at Sunset Memory Gardens for committal and military honors. To share memories, photos, and for additional information, visit Michael’s personal online memorial at [www.LoweNeddoFuneralHome.com](http://www.LoweNeddoFuneralHome.com) or call 704-545-3553.

# Cemetery

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## Sunset Memory Gardens

8901 Lawyers Road  
Charlotte, NC, 28227

# Events

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**AUG 15** **Gathering of Friends and Family** 02:00PM - 02:30PM

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Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home  
4715 Margaret Wallace Road, Matthews, NC, US,  
28105

**AUG 15** **Service** 02:30PM

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Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home  
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# Comments

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“ I first met Jim at Ft. Rucker, Al in 1978. He was a PSNCO. He was totally knowledgeable about the Army and how it worked administratively. He was my boss and mentor. He spoke fluent Thai Language. He had a friend at Alexandria, VA named Sutterfield that also was fluent in the Thai Language. I remember him chewing me out for telling his wife what American women do and don't do.. He yelled "Don't tell her anything, I don't want her Americanized". He loved his son Gary. I remember the little boy with the Black Hair. I lost track of him in 1983 and did not remember he had other children. He told me stories about his brother and him and the shenanigans they had done. He told about working with Customs in Thailand. He enjoyed life, guns and having fun.

**DEWEY BALL** - June 11, 2016 at 11:45 AM

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“ This man gave me a chance on a job. It lasted eight years n built a friendship with memories that will last forever awesome man friend n co worker he had came to wv n stayed with me on a bear hunt n had a blast n loved my boys to no end you will be n are missed sarge Do much love for you sarge!!!!

**Tommy Davis** - January 21, 2016 at 05:49 PM

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“ Lol



**yummy** - November 07, 2015 at 04:27 AM

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“ I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to the family. May God bless you with comfort, peace & strength as you continue to grow into the healing process of each day of passing.  
"Yvonne McIlwain"

**Yvonne McIlwain** - August 15, 2014 at 04:48 PM



“ Michael and my brother, Donnie were inseparable when we all were young. They went everywhere and did everything. I always remember him with so much energy. I can still hear his laughter. It seemed he ran everywhere he went. I believe Michael had a good heart. Sadly, I remember his dog "Ginger" , his bulldog, and how it hurt Michael when he died. I am sorry to say, I have lost touch with him over the years, and amazed at his heroism after reading his story, again reflecting his good heart. I pray for you family members. Take comfort in knowing you were a blessing to him. I pray God will give you that much needed comfort.



**Sandra Elliott** - August 15, 2014 at 01:40 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers remain with you throughout this most difficult time. I am so saddened to hear of the passing of cousin Michael. I am very thankful for the memories of which i will share a few. I remember as a little girl Mike as a very fun-loving teenager always ready for the next mischievous adventure he, my brother and their friends could find to pursue! I remember him marrying Pia and having beautiful babies! You knew that Pia was the love of his life.I remember his love for the Army and saw him rise in the ranks of his military career. His service made me proud. As we both got older he would come up to visit his sweet mother, Aunt Lena, Robin and the rest of the family. Sometimes we would catch him riding by my dad and mom's house to go to the end of the road as he was checking out the changes that had taken place since his last trip home. To see him was like a celebrity was in town! We would go to the road hoping to stop him when he went by for a bit of catching up.It was always good to see him and hear how he and his family were doing. When my dad passed away he and the rest of the family were instrumental in placing a stone at the WWII Memorial in King, N.C. in honor of our daddy, their uncle Johnnie J. Gray. Our family was very touched by their generosity. We knew that daddy's service was close to Mike's heart. Mike held a wealth of information about Veterans and the military services. He was always glad to offer his advise about military issues. Mike just had a big ole heart and not so long ago he made and gave my mother a beautiful shelf with her and my dad's initials on it. He also crafted her a beautiful table with a marble top, always so generous. I remember the last hug I got from him. He was a big guy and my arms wouldn't wrap around him. His arms would wrap around you though and you could chose to feel safe or scared. I felt safe and loved! I am going to miss those hugs. Rest in peace Mike, till we meet again.



**Beverly Gray Conner** - August 14, 2014 at 09:28 AM