



James Michael McMurtrey

September 18, 1946 - February 3, 2026

James Michael McMurtrey, 79, was born on September 18, 1946, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Milford and Margaret McMurtrey. He graduated from Rider High School in 1965 and later earned his degree from Oklahoma State University.

James lived a life shaped by curiosity, service, and a deep love of history, aviation, and storytelling. In 1994, he spent a summer at Edwards Air Force Base, working alongside archaeologists to locate and identify historic crashed aircraft—an experience that reflected his lifelong fascination with aviation and preservation.

Throughout his career, James served his communities in meaningful ways. He worked with the Planning Commission in Wichita Falls, Texas, and later, while living in Hartford, Kentucky, helped establish local emergency medical services. There, he managed communications and proudly served as an EMT.

In 2005, James and his wife moved to Carrollton, Texas, when he accepted a position as editor with Squadron/Signal Publications, a role that perfectly blended his talents as a writer, historian, and publisher. James was also a musician, a dedicated member of the International Plastic Modelers Association, and a loyal friend to many who shared his passions.

Although his eyesight prevented him from serving in the military or earning the private pilot's license he so deeply desired, his respect for aviation, history, and those who serve never wavered.

James is survived by his beloved wife, Linda Ann McMurtrey; his sister, Kathleen McMurtrey, and her husband Tom DuHammel of Aurora, Colorado; and a large extended family of cousins who will cherish his memory.

James will be remembered for his intellect, creativity, generosity of spirit, and the quiet but lasting impact he made on those fortunate enough to know him.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Linda - I was so saddened to hear about Michael. I last talked (texted) him on Christmas Day to see how he was doing. He had written some very good articles about the founding of IPMS for the Journal several years back. I told him what a wonderful writer I thought he was. Part of me always feels that summaries of someone's life after passing are woefully insufficient to capture the value of that life. Today is one of those instances. I always made a point of trying to sit by him in recent IPMS club meetings. I would just close by saying he will be missed. Godspeed Michael. Till we meet again.

Mark Wilson - February 06 at 11:39 AM

LI

Thank you he is and was a wonderful man

lindamcmurtrey - February 06 at 04:57 PM

SC

“ I first came to know Michael in 2013, when I was joining the Dallas IPMS club. We shared a common interest in aviation. We made many road trips together to visit air museums, train museums and other historical sites. There were a couple of planned trips this spring, that now will not occur..... Michael had an intellect, curiosity and concern for others that isn't a common as it should be. I will miss my friend Michael.....

Scott Copeland - February 06 at 11:10 AM

LI

Thank You Scott

lindamcmurtrey - February 06 at 11:20 AM

WH

“ *I first knew James in high school in Wichita Falls. Then we reconnected via Facebook and shared interests. He was a noble person who cared deeply about his fellow man and his beloved Linda. The is better because of him.*

Wynell Hosch - February 05 at 09:12 PM