



# James D. Melling

AUG 27, 1955 - JUN 20, 2016



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## **James D. Melling**

AUG 27, 1955 - JUN 20, 2016

**J**ames D. Melling was born in Lansing Michigan on August 27th 1955 and passed away in Tacoma Washington June 20th 2016 at the age of 60.

James enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1976 and after 22 years 7 months and 26 days (he kept count) he retired from a long and Honorable career in 1999. In 1997 The United States Air Force moved James to the Pacific Northwest with his family after several extended tours in England. Upon retiring from the military James worked another job (sucking sawdust as he liked to call it) for a few years. Not long after James returned to what he knew best and found himself back to work for the Air Force as a civilian in 2004. James recently received an award for 35 years of distinguished government service.

During James assignment in England he met the love of his life Margaret MacDonald. As in any relationship they learned a lot about one another and soon fell in love. They were married soon after in 1979. And other than a remote tour to Korea they have enjoyed each year of their 37 years together. Their marriage produced two children Michelle and Michael, and one grand child Ella.

James was looking forward to beginning his new chapter as a full time retiree spending as much time as he could with his beautiful wife Margaret and their two children Michelle and Michael, his granddaughter Ella and son-in-law Brandon.

JD, as James preferred to be called and his friends knew him by loved his 1970 Chevelle, almost as much as he loved his Detroit lions. JD was never into other sports but he loved his football. His teams reflected where JD spent his childhood and time before enlisting in the military. It was the Detroit lions for professional football and Alabama and Michigan State for college.

JD never knew a stranger to him everyone was “Vern” no matter how long he had known you. He had friends from all over the world, no matter what he was doing or where he was he found people of a like mind, and if you didn’t share his thoughts or beliefs he had a perfect sign and song for you.



## Obituary

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JD is survived by his loving wife, two children one grandchild, his brother, and his Mother.

He will be laid to rest at Tahoma National Cemetery with full Military Honors.



# Events

**James D. Melling**

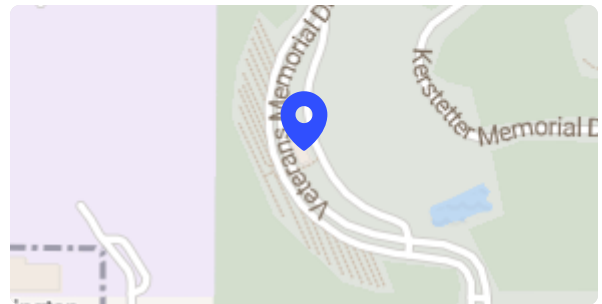
AUG 27, 1955 - JUN 20, 2016

## Gathering

**Wednesday**, June 29, 2016

12:30 PM PT

**Tahoma National Cemetery**  
18600 Southeast 240th Street, KENT WA 98042

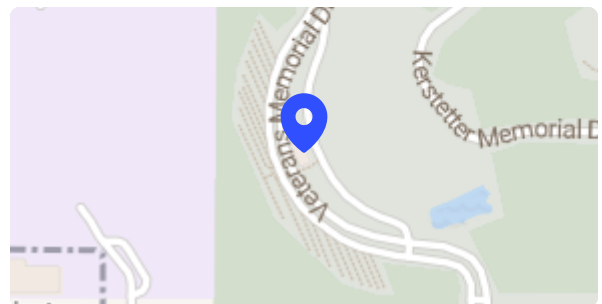


## Graveside Service

**Wednesday**, June 29, 2016

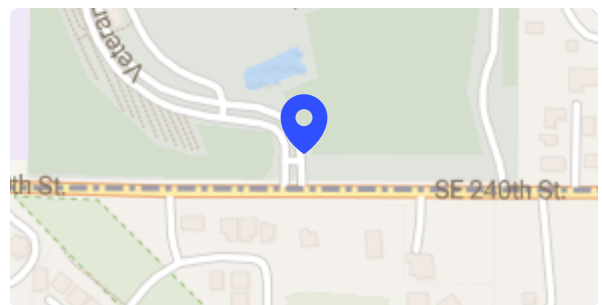
1:00 PM PT

**Tahoma National Cemetery**  
18600 Southeast 240th Street, KENT WA 98042



## Cemetery Details

**Tahoma National Cemetery**  
18600 Southeast 240th Street, Ke WA





## Tribute Wall

**James D. Melling**

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RM

**Roy Mcquatters** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I met JD while we were stationed at RAF Lakenheath in the late 90s. We had a great crew that was always up for a challenge. I learned a lot while stationed with JD. He was a great Superintendent, mentor, and friend. JD did not lack in personality and he had quite the sense of humor. "Ya know what I mean Vern?" All the best to Margaret and the entire family. Until we meet again JD. God bless.

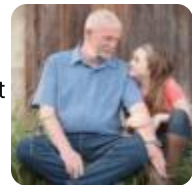


July 15 at 3:33 PM

BR

**Brandon** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dad, I sit here at 2:56 am wishing I could just pick up a phone and call and tell you that I was thinking of you. This last year has been one of the greatest trials of my life. Watching the pain and sorrow from mum, your children and my daughter your granddaughter and knowing that there was no way for me to comfort that pain has been hard to bear. I try and stay strong but some days I can't help but break down. I miss you. You were a friend like no other. Accepting me as son and not just a son in law. I love you dad. You were taken before any of us were ready. Rest easy knowing that we think of you every day.



May 25 at 10:06 PM

NB

**Nathan Buldis** posted:

We shared some great memories. You will always be remembered. With honor and respect you lived. We will miss you. Respectfully, Nathan Buldis

February 25 at 5:03 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Tereasa Tapia** posted:

I only came to really know JD over the past year when our offices were co-located at our new location on McChord Field. JD was a great man with an easy sense of humor. You always knew where you stood with him and he never hesitated to tell you. He voiced his opinions when things needed to be said, but others were afraid to. Underneath that hard exterior was a person that cared more for his family than himself, and a person that would stop what he was doing to lend an friendly ear and give advice. Things will not be the same at work. He will be so very missed but never forgotten.

July 5 at 8:07 AM



**Big John** July 7 at 3:33 PM

I always thought of JD as the brother I never had but wished I did . He shared so many things with me and I felt special for being able to be a person that JD allowed to see the softer and kinder side of him with out the hard thick skin . JD and miss margaret always brought laughter and lots of hugs and appreciation. JD was always willing to tell me Bama was the team and I was always will to tell him fairy tails and pixty dust doesn't beat Louisiana, I guess I was wrong , but never felt wrong " , JD always made me feel like I was right even when I wrong and yes he loved his Detroit loins even though they lost !" But that never discouraged him from being a humbled man . The one special thing I admired about JD was his family was first " and that is where JD gained his strength to be the man we all came to love . There is no doubt that JD will be missed by many and many lived the man for who he was . The honesty and integrity that he had was rare you always knew where he was coming from and never had a negative opinion of the people who shared his life . R.I.P JD you are missed and loved



**Anonymous** sent a Fields of Europe for Spring to the Melling family.



July 1 at 5:15 AM



**Will Cleveland** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

JD was an awesome man. He was one of my biggest influences in EM. He loved his Margaret, his Ella, his Chevy & his Detroit Lions. He did a great job of mentoring us young airmen & teaching us the job. I'll never forget the time his family had me over for Thanksgiving dinner and introduced me to a snakebite. I'm sure gonna miss you, homie! Cheers! -TSgt Will Cleveland, USAF



June 30 at 12:23 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Mark Williamson** posted:

JD, was a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor. When we JD, Jim and I) began the EM program for Joint Base he brought experience, knowledge and that sense of humor with him to our office. My life is fuller for having known him. I miss my good friend and always will. Mark Williamson

June 29 at 1:05 PM



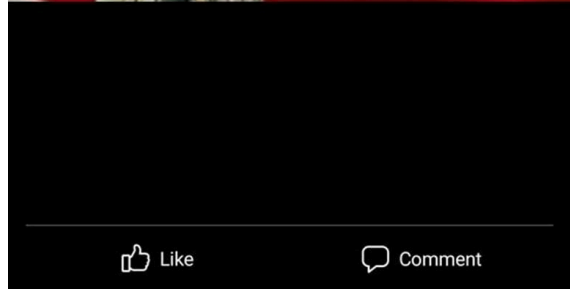
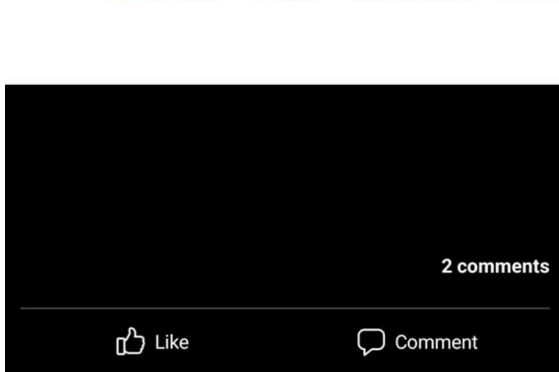
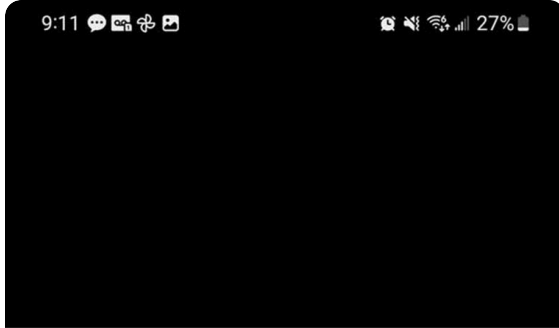
# Media

**James D. Melling**  
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Roy Mcquatters shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 15 at 3:33 PM





## Media

**James D. Melling**

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**Brandon** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 25 at 10:06 PM





## Media

**James D. Melling**

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**Will Cleveland** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 30 at 12:23 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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