



James Roy Petty

September 16, 1944 - July 5, 2025

James R. Petty, 80, of Visalia, California, passed away peacefully on July 5, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and respected businessman, James lived a life defined by service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to his family and community. He proudly served as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps, carrying with him a legacy of honor, discipline, and strength.

After his military service, James returned to Visalia and became a pillar of the business community as the owner of Giant Chevrolet Cadillac. Under his leadership, the dealership earned a reputation for integrity, exceptional service, and commitment to the people of Visalia and beyond.

James is survived by his beloved wife, Irene Petty, and their six daughters: Rebecca Beavers (Stephen), Deborah Petty, Judy Plum (David), Teresa Orton (Scot), Barbara Delgado (Brian), and Marcia Vela. He was the proud grandfather of 22 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, each of whom he loved deeply.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Catherine Petty; his sister, Judy Mayfield; and his daughter, Catherine Nicole. He is survived by his

brother, Jack Petty.

A viewing will be held Monday, July 21, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. The funeral service will take place Tuesday, July 22, at 9:30 a.m. at the same location, followed by graveside services at Visalia Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in James's memory to one of the following organizations:

- California Service Dog Academy - www.californiaservicedogacademy.org <<https://www.californiaservicedogacademy.org/>>
- YoungLives Visalia - www.younglives.org <<https://www.younglives.org/>>
- Visalia Rescue Mission - www.vrmhope.org <<https://www.vrmhope.org/>>
- Visalia Emergency Aid Council - www.veac.org <<https://www.veac.org/>>
- SPCA - www.spcai.org <<https://www.spcai.org/>>

Semper Fi.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Funeral

JUL 22. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 E. Caldwell Ave.
Visalia, CA 93277

Graveside

JUL 22. 11:00 AM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of James Roy Petty*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - July 18, 2025 at 01:36 PM

VA

Mister Petty was a kind man. I enjoyed the time that he would come in and when he didn't, i worried. He was a patient of mine and he was wonderful favorite. My sincere condolences to his family. May you all find peace in knowing that he loved you much and he enjoyed going to work even if it was only for a couple hours.God Bless You All..

Vicky Anaya - July 31, 2025 at 10:49 PM

GE

“ *So sorry for your loss. Geneva Philot*

Geneva - July 27, 2025 at 09:32 PM

JG

“ *Jim did a lot for me when I was the X-C coach at Golden West H.S . He help me in coaching and in cross -country meets. He was a Christian brother. He help me to send my cross-country boys and girls on an overnight meet in Northern California. In my prayers from coach Garcia.*

Juan Garcia - July 19, 2025 at 11:17 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of James Roy Petty.*



July 19, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Roy Petty.

July 19, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Roy Petty.*



July 18, 2025 at 05:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Jim Remembrances*



Bill McBride - July 17, 2025 at 02:19 PM



Good people, Fancy Dan 67-68

stevwn McDiarmid - July 18, 2025 at 08:38 AM

BM

“ 1 file added to the album *Jim Remembrances*



Bill McBride - July 17, 2025 at 02:11 PM

BM

“ 1 file added to the album *Jim Remembrances*



Bill McBride - July 17, 2025 at 02:09 PM

BS

“ *Barbara Shurte purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Roy Petty.*



Barbara Shurte - July 17, 2025 at 01:36 PM

BS

“ *Barbara Shurte planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Roy Petty.*

Barbara Shurte - July 17, 2025 at 01:36 PM

CB

“ I’ll always remember in high school the first time I stopped in at the Giant automotive downtown and sat with Jim in his office. I was in awe at how the walls were covered in Polaroids from floor to ceiling of generations of teens that had come before me. He always made time to listen and give sound advice or make a clever joke.

Those visits would continue from when I was a young teenager and sporadically throughout my adult life. Whether it was at the dealership or at Jim and Irene’s home on their living room couch, the door was always open. From highschool trips, to first love and heart brake, to college experiences and career moves, to the passing of my father, he made a point of caring and being available to listen. He had an amazing ability to make others realize how truly special they really are.

Each meeting would always be wrapped up in the same fashion. Jim would shake your hand and then grip it while making intense eye contact at which point you were supposed to squeeze his hand back as hard as you could. He would then say “Is that all you got?!” At some point you’d have to give in. Then he would give you a big bear hug and tell you he loved you.

Jim was by far the most influential person and mentor in my life that helped bring my minimal faith to a stronger level. Without that influence, I don’t know exactly where I would be today. I love you Jim! Until we meet again.

Jim was an amazing man. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and loved ones.

Christopher Bough - July 17, 2025 at 12:16 AM

BM

“ To Irene and all the girls: my condolences to you. Your family was such a big part of my life when I lived in Visalia as an adult. Years before, Jim and I were in the high school Sunday School class together at the Methodist Church. May his love for youth and spreading his faith in Jesus shine on.

Becky Fox McClure, Colorado Springs

Becky Fox McClure - July 16, 2025 at 04:21 PM

RS

“ I was 19, visiting an orphanage in Romania, and that is where I met Jim as he was leading a team of young people, to work at that orphanage. I joined that team, we painted windows together, and scrubed floors, and helped make the place better. I stayed in touch ever since, Jim and Irene supported and encouraged me through my college years, they had me over visiting the US, kindly opening their house to me.

I remember I was so impressed by Jim's leadership, he wanted to teach those young people he led to be thankful, and kind, and grateful for all that they had.

He invested so so so much in the young people God brought his way. I was one of them!

Roxana Singeorzan - July 16, 2025 at 03:37 PM

JR

“ Joanne Bates Rossetti planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Roy Petty.

Joanne Bates Rossetti - July 15, 2025 at 10:21 PM

JR

“ Joanne Bates Rossetti purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of James Roy Petty.



Joanne Bates Rossetti - July 15, 2025 at 10:21 PM

KM

“ Jim and I were roommates at The Basic School, D company USMC , TBS-3-67. You were the best Marine I ever met You lived well and finished well my old friend. Semper Fi

Keeling. “Buster”. McLin - July 15, 2025 at 07:22 PM

JD

“ I was a 22 year old punk kid, hitching my way through Central America and I had the honor and privilege of meeting you on the island of Roatan, Honduras. I got to spend a week with you in Santa Helena and another week in Punta Gorda. We laughed together, argued, threw firecrackers at people using the latrine, built a well, hauled concrete up a hill to help construct a church. You attacked me one night after lights out when we were all sleeping on wood pews in that old church. I was drifting off to sleep and I felt this hand creep up from under the pew and grab my face. You let out a gurgled roar and scared me half to death. You just laughed and laughed...You shared stories of friends in Vietnam, friends in Visalia, adventures with family and above all, your love of Jesus. You led a team of young people and they ALL looked up to you and it was easy to see why. I'm gonna miss your stories. I'm gonna miss your cantankerous attitude that encompassed a heart of love. Jim, thank you for pouring in to my life and the lives of so many others. You made an impact sir. Rest easy. - Jeremy Dyck (Phoenix, AZ)

Jeremy Dyck - July 15, 2025 at 06:59 PM