



James Richard Hayden, Sr.
August 16, 1943-May 5, 2025

James Richard Hayden, Sr., passed away peacefully on May 5, 2025, at the age of 81 in Lecanto, Florida. Born on August 16, 1943, in Chardon, Ohio, to Austin D. Hayden and Marjorie E. Woodin, James lived a life full of service, devotion, and a deep love for his family and the great outdoors.

As a proud veteran, James served honorably in the United States Air Force. After his military service, he spent his career as a skilled heavy equipment mechanic, known for his strong work ethic and dedication.

James was an avid horseman and hunter, passions that shaped much of his life. Whether riding and showing horses or exploring the outdoors in search of game, he found joy, purpose, and peace in nature. Above all, James was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished time with his loved ones.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia Lynn Hayden; his children, James R. Hayden, Jr., Annet Hayden, and James Spangler; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Crystal River Church of God in Crystal River, Florida. A military honors ceremony will follow on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Bushnell National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

James will be remembered for his unwavering strength, his love for his family, and his enduring spirit. He will be deeply missed and forever honored.

Private cremation is under the direction of Brown Funeral Home & Crematory in Lecanto, FL.