



## Robert L Lemley

June 17, 1939 - April 24, 2025

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Robert Lemley on April 24, 2025, at the age of 85, surrounded by family. He was a beloved husband, father, brother and friend. Born on June 17, 1939, to Henry and Annie Ruth Lemley in Piper, Alabama.

He lived a full and well-traveled life. He enlisted in the US Army at the age of 17 and was assigned to the Army Security Agency (ASA), his first duty station was in Herzogenaurach, Germany where he met the love of his life Katharina Winter. They shared 66 wonderful years of marriage and raised one daughter: Rosa Maria. During their time in the Army, they were stationed in many countries, Japan, Turkey, Italy, Germany. During Robert's 20 years in the Army he received numerous accolades, he served a tour in Vietnam during the TET Offensive and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

After retiring from the Army, Robert and family moved to Florida for the sunny weather and numerous golf courses. Robert attended Orlando College at night; graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1983 receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree.

During his 23-year career with Orange County Government, he worked 2 years for the Sheriff's Department and 21 years with the Office of Emergency Management where he served as the Executive Director until his retirement.

After retiring in June 1999, Robert and Katharina enjoyed traveling and cruising. His two favorite sports included watching Alabama Crimson Tide Football (Roll Tide) and golfing; he was very excited when he shot a “Hole in One” at the Kissimmee Golf course.

He is survived by his beloved spouse, Katharina, daughter Rosa Maria (Jim), Father Raju Mathew Panackal, Bay Son and Loan.

A private family memorial service will be held at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, ([www.FeedHopeNow.org](http://www.FeedHopeNow.org)).

# Previous Events

## Catholic Memorial Mass

MAY 15. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church  
6200 S Orange Blossom Trail  
Orlando, FL 32809  
(407) 855-5391

# Tribute Wall



“ Oh my goodness. I was so saddened to learn of Mr Lemley passing. He hired me as his secretary in Nov 1989. He was not only my boss but mentor. He taught me so much about emergency management and I have memories of walking the sides of the chemical vaults at Lockheed Martin. To this day I still have a love of emergency management. He adored Katharine and Rosa Marie. He and I designed the first emergency management logo. He was awesome. He taught me so much about life as well. He told me once when buying a car pay cash and make the car dealership remove their name off the back of your car. No free advertising. Rosa Marie he was so proud when you bought your first house. He taught me that no matter how many time you come to work on time people will only remember the one time you came in late. Like always shared his life wisdom with me. Out of everywhere I worked and bosses i have had Mr lemley was one of the best!!

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**Virginia Blaylock (Terry)** - December 12, 2025 at 03:39 PM

RL

“ Dad,

*I want to thank you for my awesome childhood. You serving in the Army allowed me to live and travel in many foreign countries. I am so proud to be an Army Brat. When people ask me where are you from, I answer well my mom is from Germany, my dad from Alabama and I was born in Japan. So everywhere.*

*You shared your love for country music and Alabama Crimson Tide football. Roll Tide! You loved to sing and play guitar, I remembered when you tried to teach me to play guitar let's just say patience was not one of your virtues. And we both know I cannot sing worth a darn.*

*You wrote poems and songs to mom and me, starting when I was 5 years old and you were in Vietnam. I received poems for important birthdays and others just to say you loved me. I remember when I was going thru a breakup you wrote a poem to remind me you can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear or a racehorse from a donkey. You had a way with words.*

*I always knew you would have my back no matter what I did. You always encouraged me and did everything possible to help me succeed.*

*When I met Jim, you welcomed him into our family. You and mom also welcomed Fr. Raju, Bay Son and Loan into our family and I went from being an only child to having 2 brothers and a sister.*

*Since I retired 4 years ago, I was able to spend more time with you. I always enjoyed our time together.*

*Dad, we miss you very much, but we know you are no longer in pain and we know we will be with you again.*

*I love you.*

*Your daughter Rosa Maria*

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Rosa Maria Lemley - May 21, 2025 at 04:49 PM

CN

“ My condolences to your family. I knew Bob through OCFRD and the Office of Emergency Services. He was so well respected and always prepared for any disaster that came our way. Bob was such a nice soul and it showed in his ability to smile easily. He was a wealth of valuable information but still actively listened to understand and learn. Prayers for his family during this most difficult time. Candy Nadeau, Orange County Fire Rescue 911 Supervisor (ret)

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**candice nadeau** - May 07, 2025 at 11:23 PM

GE

“ Bob was first and foremost my dear friend. He was also my mentor and reason for becoming an Emergency Manager. One of my most vivid memories was the night the tornadoes ripped through Osceola, Orange and Seminole Counties. Bob called me at 3:00 am to tell me to report to the EOC for a full activation. Through the next several weeks working with our county partners and state and federal agencies we responded and took care of our community and our citizens. This was all under the incredible guidance and leadership of Bob. It was my honor to have served with Bob through all the years. I love you Mr. Lemley. I will miss you and will never ever forget what you did for me. God Bless you and your family. I keep you in my heart and prayers always. Greg Ek-Collins

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**Greg Ek-Collins** - May 05, 2025 at 11:50 AM

RM

“ 4 files added to the album Robert



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**Rosa Maria** - April 29, 2025 at 03:41 PM

MF

*To The Lemley Family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy and condolences for you loss.  
I worked with Bob when he was in charge of Emergency Management  
at OCFRD. My wife also worked with Bob years ago at OCSO, There  
was no finer man.  
Mitch Floyd, Fire Chief (ret.)*

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**Mitch Floyd** - May 03, 2025 at 07:31 PM

CL

“ *My condolences to your family. Your beloved husband and father lived a FULL and wonderful life. May he rest in peace now and my God bring you comfort in remembering him forever more.*



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**Cherlyn Lacy** - April 29, 2025 at 01:50 PM

RM

“ 6 files added to the album Robert



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Rosa Maria - April 27, 2025 at 07:02 PM