

## Obituary

James "Jimmy" Mata, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away on April 4, 2025, in Columbus, Georgia. Born on January 28, 1954, in Chicago, Illinois, Jimmy lived a life filled with love, dedication, and laughter that touched everyone who knew him.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM Tuesday, April 15, 2025 in the Chapel of McMullen Funeral Home and Crematory. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home, 3874 Gentian Blvd. Columbus, GA 31907.

Jimmy dedicated 13 years of his career as a forklift driver for Hanwah, where he expertly oversaw logistics in his department. He was passionate about his work and took great pride in ensuring that everything ran smoothly. His commitment and work ethic were evident in every task he undertook. A graduate of Columbus Technical College, Jimmy earned a diploma in HVAC Systems in 2002, showcasing his desire for continuous learning and improvement.

With a heart full of service, he proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for four years and then in the United States Army for an impressive 18 years, reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant. Throughout his military career, he was awarded numerous commendations, including the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal, among others. His dedication to duty and country was matched only by his deep sense of humor and charismatic personality that made him a friend to all.

Family was everything to Jimmy; he was known as the best father anyone could ask for and his kindness and loving nature shone brightly in the lives of his children and grandchildren. He made the holidays truly special for everyone, turning moments into cherished memories. Whether he was spending quality time with his grandchildren, taking them to movies, or simply enjoying their presence, his love was unyielding. His grandchildren, Qudarius J. Mata, Amone K. Warrior, Zakari K. Warrior, Layla L. Potts, Sasha Mata, Samiya Mata, Xena Mata, Xoe Mata, and Jia Mata, held a special place in his heart, and his presence in their lives will forever be treasured.

Outside of his family, Jimmy had many hobbies that brought him joy. He loved building Legos and model airplanes, immersing himself in his projects and sharing his creations with those he loved. A history enthusiast, he found delight in reading about military history, further fueled by his own experiences. He had a particular fondness for Pepsi and enjoyed tending to his yard, which he kept beautiful with meticulous care.

Jimmy is survived by his devoted wife, Yong Mata, his loving children Amanda Mata Warrior (Justin Potts), Jimmy Mata Jr. (Jasmine Weems), and Nazareth O. Calhoun (Marie Calhoun), alongside his numerous grandchildren who will carry his legacy forward. He also leaves behind his siblings, Lucy M. Almanza, Sandra Mata, Rosemary Mojica, Joe Mata, and Ruben Mata, with whom he shared many precious moments and memories.

He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Maria Mata and Jose Mata, whose spirits undoubtedly welcomed him with open arms.

The essence of Jimmy's spirit, kindness, and laughter will forever resonate in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was not just an amazing man; he was a beacon of love and strength in his family's lives. As we remember Jimmy, we celebrate a life well-lived, filled with compassion, dedication, and an unwavering love that will continue to inspire us.



*In Memory Of*

James "Jimmy" Mata

January 28, 1954 ~ April 4, 2025



UNITED STATES ARMY  
1775

*Services In Care Of*



McMullen Funeral Home and Crematory



*In Memory Of*

James "Jimmy" Mata

*Date of Birth*  
January 28, 1954

*Entered Into Rest*  
April 4, 2025

*Funeral Services*

2:00 PM, Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Chapel of McMullen Funeral Home and Crematory  
Columbus, GA

*Officiating*

U.S. Military Chaplain

*Visitation*

One hour prior to services at the funeral home