

## James Roach

### James Roach Memorial Award

Established in memory of James Roach, an aviation professional whose career spanned 28 remarkable years, 18 of those with an air ambulance service, the James Roach Memorial Award carries forward James' enduring impact.

For James, being a helicopter pilot was not just a job, but a calling. Whether navigating missions or mentoring the next generation of pilots, he brought skill, compassion, and unwavering commitment to every flight.



Born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan on December 9, 1977, James was raised on his family's farm near Admiral. He graduated from Admiral High School in 1995 and soon moved to Alberta to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a helicopter pilot. He earned his pilot's license from the Okotoks Flight School in 1996. His first jobs were with Zatkan Contracting and Gemini Helicopters in northern Alberta.

James' career took him and his family across the country. He worked for Abitibi Helicopters in Alberta, the Durham Regional Police in Ontario, and Cougar Helicopters in Newfoundland. In 2007, the family returned to Alberta when James began his role with STARS air ambulance, a position he held with dedication for many years.

In 2025, James embarked on a new chapter, joining his longtime friend at Horizon Helicopters. He was excited about the opportunity and eager to take on this new role. Tragically, James died while on duty, leaving many of his career goals unrealized.

The James Roach Memorial Award honours the profession James cared so deeply about and supports future generations who share his passion for aviation.