



## James Robert Cross

August 10, 1943 - June 11, 2020

James R. Cross

Jim Cross went home to meet his heavenly father on June 11, 2020. He was preceded in death by his father, William R. (Buster) Cross and his mother, Ruth Maddox Cross of Cumby Texas.

Jim grew up in Cumby Texas where he was valedictorian of his class at Cumby High School. He attended East Texas State (now Texas A&M Commerce) where he was a member of the R.O.T.C. program. Upon graduation in 1965, he entered the United States Air Force and served proudly for 5 years after completing pilot training in 1966. He had volunteered for Viet Nam as soon as he graduated saying "I was happy as you could be to go off to war" and after supporting the airlift mission in Europe, he served in Viet Nam in 1968-69 as a Forward Air Controller. He directed air strikes along the Ho Chi Minh trail at night to cut off supply lines to the North Vietnamese and on one such mission, Jim earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for armed forces members who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight".

Upon separation from the Air Force Jim became a commercial pilot and flew for Braniff airlines as well as multiple airlines overseas and concluded his flying career with Viet Nam airlines in 2003. Upon retiring from flying commercially he started a career with the FAA and spent his last years in their

Flight Standards Office until his retirement in January of 2020.

Jim is survived by his wife, Linda Cross of Corsicana, and his son Christopher Cross of Haslett. Grand- daughters include Kristen Wolf of Italy and Mackenzie Pettit of Royce City. Five great-grandchildren, Emeri Perkins, Ramsey Pettit and Cooper Pettit of Royce City and Lilly and Logan Wolf of Italy. Other relatives include P. J. Edmonds and Heather Forrester of Austin, Allan and Jeanne Melton of Sugar land, Laura Williams, Keely Melton, Olivia Wood, Jase Williams of Sulphur Springs, and Kendall, Chelsea and Austin Melton of Caddo Mills. Jim is also survived by his 99 yr. old mother-in-law, Ruth Melton.

Contributions to the American Cancer Society will be accepted.

# Cemetery Details

## Dallas / Fort Worth National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Parkway  
Dallas, TX 75211  
(214) 467-3374  
<http://dallasfortworthcemetery.com>

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ *James Robert Cross*

---

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Although my aviation work with Jim was not in industry, but in a federal agency, ALWAYS I still had the sense I was with an exceptional airline Captain looking out for and watching over his crew.  
He will be missed...find new wings that last forever Inspector Cross.  
"Blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted."-- Jesus in Matthew 5:4*

*Vincent Rossi*

---

**Vincent Rossi** - June 30, 2020 at 03:53 PM



“ *Captain James Cross was one of the nicest people I have ever had the honor to work with. He was always willing to lend a hand when necessary and jump in and take over when we needed it the most. Heaven is a brighter place with his presence. Prayers for his family. Rest in peace, James Cross, you will be missed by many.*

---

**Judi Palmer** - June 30, 2020 at 10:43 AM

EA

“ *My family and I were so saddened to hear of Jim's passing. Great guy and great partner. So many memories of our travels together. I'll always have the memories of the three amigos. RIP my friend. Love and peace to your family.*



---

**EDWIN Aviles** - June 30, 2020 at 10:32 AM

EA

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



---

**EDWIN Aviles** - June 30, 2020 at 10:26 AM

 Randy Holder

“ *There has never been a kinder friend or better co-worker than Jim. You have entered your eternal retirement --Randy Holder*

---

**Randy Holder** - June 28, 2020 at 10:13 PM

CT

“ *Jim was a class act and a true friend. I was heartbroken when I heard of his passing but he'll live on with all the great memories I have of him. RIP my friend.*

*Clay Titus*

---

**Clay Titus** - June 28, 2020 at 05:32 PM



BR

“ *It was a privilege to work with you at the FAA. Your intelligence, integrity and sense of humor were evident in everything you did. I will miss our chats about golf and the Masters tournament. Goodbye to a true gentleman and a gem of a person. - Bart Robey*

---

**Bart Robey** - June 21, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ *I was sorry to hear of Captain Cross' passing. They lived across the street from us when I was a kid. He was teaching at Navarro College when he was first hired by Braniff. He always had time to talk to me about aviation and his stories played a part in my pursuing an aviation career of my own. Fly west, Jim.*

---

**David Dowd** - June 15, 2020 at 06:56 PM