



James Melvin Maples Jr.

April 23, 1951 - March 17, 2018

James Melvin Maples, Jr. was born on April 23, 1951 in Fairbanks, Alaska, to James M Maples, Sr. and Imogene Butcher Maples. He passed from his earthly home to his heavenly home on March 17, 2018 in Dallas, Texas, surrounded by his family.

James was a 1969 graduate of Bossier High School, Bossier City, LA and graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1974. After graduation, he was stationed in Lubbock, Texas where he was a flight instructor for the T-38 jet. Upon discharge, he began his 34 year career as a commercial pilot with Piedmont Airlines and its successors.

James was predeceased by his parents and is survived by sons James (LuAnne) Covington of Watertown, NY and Brian (Amy) Covington of Nashville, TN; daughter Jacqueline (Max) Hollis of Conway, AR and grandchildren, Caroline, Lily, Abigail and Vibeka. He is also survived by his six sisters; Evelyn (Sidney) Evans of Natchitoches, LA; Frances M Glass of Apple Springs, TX; Sammie Forrester of Blooming Grove, TX; Sharon (Randall) Ponder of Haughton, LA; Maryan (Dean) Smith of St. Louis, MO, and Hazel (Gary) Winner of Rhome, TX. Also surviving is his uncle and aunt, Ray and Delsie Maples of Charlotte, NC., twenty nieces and nephews and a multitude of great and great-great nieces and nephews and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at Griffin Roughton Funeral Home, 1530 N. 45th Street, Corsicana, TX, Visitation will be at the funeral home from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Interment will be at the U. S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

Jim had a very caring, loving heart and it showed in his support of St. Jude Children's Hospital. The family would like to honor his wishes by asking that a donation be made to St. Jude Hospital in lieu of flowers.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **22**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana
1530 N. 45th Street
Corsicana, TX 75110
(903) 874-4774
info@griffin-roughton.com

Service

MAR **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana
1530 N. 45th Street
Corsicana, TX 75110
(903) 874-4774
info@griffin-roughton.com

Tribute Wall



“ Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of James Melvin Maples Jr.



Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home - March 20, 2018 at 12:57 PM



“ James Melvin Maples Jr.

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ Rest In Peace, Fellow classmate USAFA Prep 1970.

Vincent Enriquez - April 27, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ I am deeply sorry for your loss. He was such a funny sweet guy. Always loved flying with him.

Carol Russell. FA iILM - March 25, 2018 at 06:46 PM

TB

“ Jim and I were classmates and in 10th Squadron together. Jim always had an infectious smile and a kind word. We saw each other at every reunion and had a lot of good laughs together. We will miss him. Our love to all of you as you mourn his passing.

Tom and Sarah Baldy

Tom Baldy - March 23, 2018 at 09:24 AM

LC

“ I am saddened to hear of Jim's passing. He was always a good friend to me. We attended the USAF Academy Prep School together and were both in 10th Squadron as cadets for our last 3 years at the Academy. I have many fond memories of Jim including water polo at the Prep School, his apartment in the Springs, lacrosse, games, his blue Corvette, the snowdrift he put that Corvette in on our senior (I showed my son-in-law) the curve where that snowdrift was this past January), our 10th class reunion and many more. We shared a love for flying. My wife, Linda, and I enjoyed spending time with Jim at the 20th and 25th reunions. We stayed in touch a little, especially around reunions. I last heard from Jim just before the 40th reunion. For over 45 years he was always a supporter and cheer leader for me. He will be missed. We are praying for Jim and hope to see him again in Heaven. We are also praying that his family will know the peace of God as they remember a great guy. Tiger 10, Huzzah.

Lou Crooks - March 22, 2018 at 03:51 PM

BF

“ Jim and I went to college together at the U.S. Air Force Academy. We were squadron mates and as such lived our lives at the Academy in close quarters. I saw Jim every day whether in classes, dining together, marching or playing sports. I will always have memories of his wide grin and enthusiasm, even during the most challenging times one undergoes as a military cadet. Everybody loved Jim. Our class of 1974 cadet squadron has remained close knit over the years and it was wonderful to see Jim at our Academy reunions where we'd "catch up" and relive our cadet days. I will miss his wit, smile and friendship. Bob Finnegan

Bob Finnegan - March 22, 2018 at 12:50 PM

LC

“ I was very sorry to hear this news. Jim was one of my best friends throughout the USAFA Prep School and the Academy. I remember water polo games at the Prep School, staying at his apartment in the Springs, his blue Corvette, and much more. We kept in touch a bit, especially around class reunions and it was always good to see Jim. He was an upbeat supporter for me. My wife, Linda, also enjoyed the time we spent with Jim at reunions. We have prayed for him and hope to see him again in Heaven. Lou Crooks

Lou and Linda Crooks - March 22, 2018 at 09:51 AM

CR

“ Jim and I (Chuck Riedl) were room mates at the Air Force Academy. We lost track of each others but reconnected at our 40th reunion. He was a great classmate and friend. There are many happy stories that we shared. I am very happy to have been able to call him a friend.



I would like to express my deepest sympathy to his family.

Chuck Riedl - March 21, 2018 at 09:54 PM

JS

“ Jim was a wonderful classmate and friend. We came of age together as members of Cadet Squadron 10 (Tiger Ten). In the intensity of our lives at the Academy he always had a smile and a plan for the next weekend to ease our frustrations. We were instructors together in training command, and then our careers changed as I continued a career in the Air Force and he pursued a successful career in the airlines. I want the family to know Jim had innumerable friends in his flying career who join you in celebrating his time here on earth.

I just this evening learned of his passing, and like all of his classmates and friends, want the family to know just how important he was to us as a classmate and friend.

*Jin Smith
Brig Gen, USAF (ret)
US Ambassador (ret)*

Jim Smith - March 21, 2018 at 07:21 PM

CF

“ Cousin Joy (Roberts) Warden & Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Melvin Maples Jr..



Cousin Joy (Roberts) Warden & Family - March 21, 2018 at 03:17 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Melvin Maples Jr..*



March 21, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Melvin Maples Jr..*



March 21, 2018 at 09:08 AM



“ *61 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home - March 20, 2018 at 11:39 AM

BC

“ To the Maples family and especially to my sister-in-law Sharon, Jim was always so kind and nice to me when in school. We enjoyed visiting with him in Charlotte a few years ago. He was so funny and told such good stories of his travels. May God bless you and give you strength and peace during this time,
Brenda Ponder Crenshaw

Brenda Ponder Crenshaw - March 20, 2018 at 07:08 AM

SH

“ My cousin, Jim Jim. All our love and condolences to the family. Our childhood memories are saturated with you. Special holidays at Grandma's house in Bullocks Creek, SC. We love you Maples Family.

*Sylvia Sharpe Hinson
Jewell Sharpe Denby*



Sylvia Hinson - March 20, 2018 at 06:57 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Melvin Maples Jr..



March 19, 2018 at 03:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Melvin Maples Jr..*



March 19, 2018 at 01:36 PM

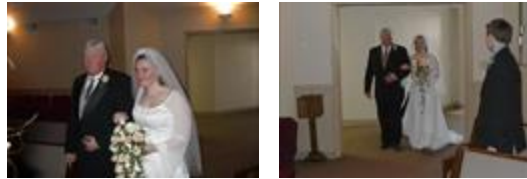


“ *I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was an important part of my life and is the father to our daughter, Jackie. I know he will leave a void in his family's life. God bless you all.*

Susan Whittenberg - March 19, 2018 at 12:48 PM



“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Jackie Hollis - March 19, 2018 at 07:32 AM