



## James Albert Cottrell

November 2, 1960 - December 9, 2020

We are saddened to announce the passing of James “Jim” Albert Cottrell after a long struggle with cancer at the age of 60. James was born on November 2, 1960 in San Antonio, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents, James Bush and Clara Mae Cottrell.

James is survived by his loving daughter Jamie Cottrell and spouse Susan Cottrell; beloved sister, Michelle Rauschuber; niece (bonus daughter) Brigitte Rauschuber; nephew, David Rauschuber and other numerous extended family and friends.

James graduated from John Marshall High School in San Antonio, Texas in 1979, where he was voted “most spirited” and given the nickname of Slim. He continued his legacy of being “most spirited” by never missing a high school reunion and followed the Rams football team year after year. Upon graduating from high school, he proudly served in the United States Coast Guard as a medic for 11 years. After serving in the Coast Guard, he worked at Lab Corp as a phlebotomist up until his passing.

James loved his family deeply and unconditionally. One of his favorite things to do each year was to play Santa at the annual Caldwell Christmas Eve gathering. He committed 100% to being the best Santa and even used super glue to hold the beard in place. James often found solace and peace in

Rockport, Texas, where he grew up fishing the waters of Aransas Bay. James was also known for his creativity and has built many model train layouts and was a part SANTRAK – San Antonio N-TRAK Train Club.

Those who knew James knew that he was never a stranger but a friend to all. We will always carry his memory in our hearts.

James' service will be held at 11:15 AM on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at Fort Sam Houston with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or SANTRAK-San Antonio N-TRAK Train Club.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR **29**. 11:15 AM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ I met Jim in middle school when I first moved to Texas with my family. We were seated alpha style in most classes so he and I were pair more than a bit. I never met someone who could make friends so damn fast and that's really something coming from an air force brat. He made it obvious that we would be friends for life. We hung and did kid things. His parents were friendly. We spent a lot of time at each other's houses.

In high school we had different crowds but the friendship was always apparent. His time away in the Coast Guard was punctuated for me to those times when he was in town for a family break and made time to see friends and catch up. It was always like time never passed with Jim. He had the same energy despite the miles. Early I had a record of causing him trouble. But he was unwavering. For both of us. Relationships. Marriages. Experiences. And loss. His dad died early. And his wonderful mum gone to soon hurt him hard. His vet network. His med network. And of course his model train mega network. They gave him many many connections to this world. And we all know that Jim can make ripples.



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Scott Chapman - January 26, 2021 at 12:25 PM

JS

“ Jimmy was my "little" cousin and I can remember babysitting for him and Michele. He learned to be kind and loving from his Mom (who was such a wonderful example), and was such fun at all the family gatherings. We lived away from San Antonio so visits were not as frequent as we'd like after reaching adulthood, but the reunions on the Coast and in town gave us precious memories. My little boy shared Jimmy's love of trains and Jimmy was his guru, showing him around the trains at the center where he pursued his hobby. Jason was in heaven! . Jimmy became an even bigger hero when we lost Jason's precious "Charzard" pokemon figure at the Coast and Jimmy "found" it and mailed it back to us. That is one more example of his kindness. We envelope Jim in the biggest emotional hug imaginable, and his family as well. Love you, Cousin! Keep having fun with all the other Caldwells up there!

joy scott - December 27, 2020 at 02:23 PM

MP

“ Jim and I were in the LEO's Club at John Marshall HS. He was so fun! His big servant's heart was showing even back then! My condolences to his family.  
Marta (Falk) Peters

marta peters - December 19, 2020 at 08:17 PM

GR

“ Greg Rosales lit a candle in memory of James Albert Cottrell



Greg Rosales - December 19, 2020 at 03:32 PM

GR

*I met Jim when I was a Security Officer at the Rosa Verde Towers in San Antonio, Tx when he was working for LabCorp He was a very Happy Man and A Great Friend will miss you Old Friend RIP.*

**Greg Rosales** - December 19, 2020 at 03:36 PM

WW

“*Jim was on the CGC Diligence with me in the early '80's. He was a great shipmate and friend. I was very happy to have reconnected with him several years ago on Facebook. My fellow shipmates and myself are deeply saddened by him crossing the bar. RIP Jim, fair winds and following seas from now on.*

**william walper** - December 19, 2020 at 12:26 PM

DG

“*I worked with Jim at lab Corp many years ago. He was a kind loving person And had the greatest sense of humor. I loved all my conversations with him And I am so Grateful to have known him. He had a heart of gold And I know Yes with our Lord and savior another angel has gone Home.*



**Debbie Guerrero** - December 19, 2020 at 12:14 PM



“ *Jim was such a blessing to our clinic! He was our phlebotomist and was so sweet & caring to staff and patients. He was like family to everyone at our clinic. My husband and I became especially closer with him after spending an afternoon taking photos with him dressed as Santa and showed his love for trains. We love him so much, and felt him watch over us on our wedding day!*



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**Clarissa Richard** - December 19, 2020 at 09:21 AM

JS

“ *Jim was the first person to become my friend when I moved to Texas! We worked together for over a year, and have stayed friends for almost fifteen years! Jim was always there listening, and sharing different views on situations, and giving advice! One year, I needed tires on my van, Jim literally took my van, put new tires on it, and brought the van back! At that time, I was a single Mom, barely able to afford childcare and rent, Jim would never let me pay him back! Jim has a heart of gold, and is a huge teddy bear! He would do anything for anyone! He even gave me advice on my relationship with my now husband! We have been together over fourteen years, and have been blessed with a daughter, who was named after a train! My husband and Jim both share a passion for trains! My thoughts and prayers are with all of you!*

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**Jennifer Smith** - December 19, 2020 at 05:56 AM

VS

“ I met Jimmy through his sister, Michelle Rauschuber. He was such a sweet man... and funny too! I'm glad I got to meet such a sweet soul. Your family and friends will forever miss you.

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**Valinda Salazar** - December 18, 2020 at 09:48 PM

AD

“ We worked together in Dallas. He always had a smile and bought everyone coffee. I will miss our talks.



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**Adam** - December 18, 2020 at 09:30 PM

SG

“ We worked together for years and he always has my back and was always super positive about everything. Everyone could count on him. He worked doing what he loved. He loved helping people, wether it was helping fixing trains or helping people through his lab. He was always supportive and a joy to be around. This is a very big loss.

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**Sophie Goetzmann** - December 18, 2020 at 09:13 PM

MY

*Jim as I would call him Jimbo, he and I work together for many years at LabCorp, he was our Santa Clause at our LabCorp parties, my dear friend is now rejoicing with our dear Lord in heaven and the little angels in heaven have gained a great Santa Claus!... there was never a dull moment with Jimbo he was very kind caring and loving, He would draw my blood, when I went to my PCP where he was the IOP there, and the staff there loved him as well,, we would chat a little before I left and he would always give me a little hug and tell me to take care and I would do the same, I was so saddened when I heard of his passing, I will miss him dearly and my condolences to his many friends and family,RIP my dear friend Jimbo, love your friend Mary Lou*

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**Mary lou Yanas** - December 28, 2020 at 11:09 AM

KC

*“ Jim's face was never without a smile. He gave the best hugs and made you feel instantly like family.*

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**Katrina Clift** - December 18, 2020 at 08:35 PM

JC

“ I remember when Jimmy was born. All 5 lbs. and some odd ounces of him!! He got to be a pretty good-sized guy to have started out so little!! Right?

As a little boy, Jimmy was so cute, and had the sweetest, most loving spirit. I saw that sweet spirit in him always. He loved his family and friends and always wanted to "help" them. He made you feel like you were someone "special" to him. As his aunt - "Auntie J" he called me - he made me feel like I was his favorite aunt. And I'm sure he made the others feel just like they were his favorite, as well!! That was Jim. The biggest thing about Jim was his heart!!!

Someone mentioned his "hug". Well, it was just the best!! Always a big, bear hug!!

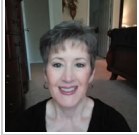
It will not be the same without Jimmy. I know how much I'll miss him, and I'm sure that is true for all. Jimmy was not only the best Santa ever - he WAS SANTA!! To all of the Caldwell gang, he gave not only gifts from his bag -- but Jim gave gifts from his Spirit. That spirit of love that he had for all the family.

That said, I must say that I am soooo glad Jim is no longer suffering. He went through so much. It was just heartbreaking!! May his soul rest in Peace Forevermore!!

Love you Jim and always will,  
Auntie J

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**JANICE Caldwell** - December 18, 2020 at 08:23 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of "Jimmy". He was never Jim to me. I usually called him Jimmy or Jimbo. Like Robin said, we knew him as "Little Jimmy" for the longest time. We has so many fun times over the past 57 years of my life. One of my favorite memories was when we were really young and Jimmy, Michelle, Aunt Clara and Uncle Jimmy came over to our house in Helotes. I guess it must have been around Christmas time, because Me, Les, Jimmy and Michelle decided to act out the manger scene for our parents. The boys draped towels over their heads and secured them with a belt or something to look like Joseph and perhaps a shepherd. Michelle and I dressed up like Mary. We had a baby doll in some sort of "manger" we fashioned. My mom has a picture of it (a slide). We all had our hands in prayer and our eyes closed and were around the manger. We all looked so sweet and innocent...lol. We had lots of fun times over the years, lots of fun fishing at the coast, lots of Christmases sitting on Santa's lap. Christmas will never be the same again without our Santa. He fought like such a trooper over the last 7 months of his life. He endured more pain and suffering than any human should have to endure. I'll miss him, but I'm so glad he is no longer in such pain. Rest in peace, and I'll see you again some day on the other side.

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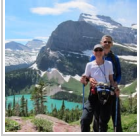
**Brenda Criswell** - December 18, 2020 at 03:31 PM

RM

“ For us older cousins, we affectionately referred to him as “Little Jimmy” until he was taller than most of us. He was very special and his big heart and infectious smile and laugh will be with us always. Love to his family and friends. He was one of a kind!

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**Robin Mitchell** - December 18, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ *We will always miss Jimmy, and there will never be a better Santa!  
He loved all of his family deeply, and always gave the best hugs!*

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**Bonnie Yablonski** - December 18, 2020 at 12:08 PM