



## James Otis (J.O.) Kimrey Jr.

April 26, 1943 - January 31, 2025

James Otis (J.O.) Kimrey Jr. was born April 26, 1943, in Durham NC and went to be with the Lord on January 31, 2025, at the age of 81 in San Antonio TX. He was preceded in death by his parents James Otis Kimrey Sr. and Ella Wiggins Kimrey. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years Maxine (Votion) Kimrey., sons, James “Jay” Otis Kimrey III (Jennifer), Christopher Scott Kimrey (Christine Galindo), Leonard Patrick Kelly Jr. (Michelle), Trey Alder Votion (Sandy), daughter, Debra Lynne Kelly (Jackie), Sister-in-law Mary Ridgeway (Albert), brothers-in-law, Alfred Votion Jr. (Tammy), Charles “Bubby” R. Votion (Suzy).

Nine Grand Children Isaac Lawrence, Gregory, Ella and Vivian Kimrey, Rusty Badillo (Roxanne), Salina Badillo, Kayci Holland (Matt), Montanna “Shay Shay” Croley (Walker), Taylor Alder Votion (Madi). Eight Great Grand Children, Logan Ransleben, Ryder Badillo, Laynee and Lawson Croley, Kenna and Kace Dubose, Chandler and Charlotte Votion, and numerous nieces/nephews, friends, Military family and his Masonic Lodge brothers at Somerset TX Lodge 1205.

J.O. graduated from Durham High School, Class of 1961 and joined the Air Force in 1966, retiring at the grade of Master Sergeant after a 25-year distinguished career working in the Tempest and Cryptologic Career Fields. During this time he earned the following medals: Defense Meritorious Service

Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and One Silver and One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Silver and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Ribbon.

He met Maxine by purposely sitting in her chair at a place they frequented. Therefore, "The Chair" became their song and the rest was history!

After his military service he didn't stray far from his passion as he began a Civilian Service career instructing Tempest/Crypto courses. During this time, he returned to college attending night classes, earning his Baccalaureate Degree from Waylan Baptist University in 1996. He retired from civil service after 20-years' service in 2014. He and his father had a mutual love for model trains. He also loved everything about airplanes and air shows.

He was gifted in electronics and owned a CB installation business in the 70/80s called Jim's Installations. He enjoyed golfing and his son Jay recalled playing golf with him as a boy and receiving his very own set of "Chi-Chi Rodriguez" youth golf clubs for Christmas one year. He was always ready to watch Patrick and Trey racing at 37 South Speedway, it was often the highlight of his week! As racing continued, he found great joy watching two of his grandchildren Rusty and Salina race quarter midgets when they were younger. To say he was a NASCAR fan is an understatement as all the above brought him great joy! Lastly, he loved to mow the yard with his riding lawn

mower and having a beer while doing it!

The family would like to send a special thank you to Debra Kelly and Scott Kimrey for their care and support to J.O./Dad over many years!

Pall bearers will be Jay Kimrey, Scott Kimrey, Isaac Lawrence, Rusty Badillo, Trey Votion and Taylor Votion. Honorary pallbearers, Patrick Kelly and Debra Kelly.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. On Thursday, February 20, 2025, Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a Funeral Service at 1:00 pm. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, followed by interment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas at 2:15 p.m. [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 19. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Visitation

FEB 20. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Funeral Service

FEB 20. 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories  
1700 SE Military Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78214  
(210) 924-4242  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

*Services at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery will begin at 2:15pm.*

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ 1 file added to the album JO



Ben Canales - March 07, 2025 at 05:27 PM

MY

“ Michelle Y. purchased a sympathy card for the family of James Otis (J.O.) Kimrey Jr..



Michelle Y. - February 20, 2025 at 10:12 AM

KR

“ Known as Mr. Kimrey to me, he was always a kind soul who always made me feel like family. Growing up he & Maxine did everything to make me feel welcome in their home and I am thankful for the kindness he showed me. May your journey be peaceful Mr. Kimrey 🕊️



Kathi Rocha - February 19, 2025 at 07:53 PM

SK

“ When I was young, dad worked an evening shift at the officers club and would usually be preparing to leave about the time I got home from school. Even though he might have needed to leave...he always asked me to play a game of Space Invaders with him on the Atari (I was 6-7 years old and this was maybe 1979-1980). It was always nice to have those few extra minutes with him each afternoon. Later on when I was maybe 12-13 we would cut lawns together and then grab McDonald's before he dropped me off at home. He moved away to D.C. for several years, but later in life we had deeper conversations and I told him I understood that life had its way of taking twists and turns and that nothing was guaranteed to stay the same. He knew that I loved him and I knew that he loved me. I will be forever thankful that I got to spend as much time with him toward the end as I did. I love you dad...save me a spot at the big table up there. I'll see you when I get there.

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**Scott Kimrey** - February 11, 2025 at 03:38 PM

RB

*Just found out darling about your loss, know that I love you, your Dad was a very special man loved by many. Roz.*

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**Rosalind Baker** - February 15, 2025 at 06:47 PM

RB

*You were a special person in my life Jiminy, I have many many fond memories of you, Jay and Scott. You will be missed but I know you are with the Lord reunited with your parents and at peace. We will see each other one day my friend. Love as always Roz (Lady)*

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**Rosalind Baker** - February 16, 2025 at 01:25 PM

BC

*With great sadness in hearing the lost of my very close and personal friend, boss and mentor. Over the years we shared many hourly phone calls just to catch up on our well being. I took to heart the many advices (words of wisdom) he shared with me. They were often from experience and from the heart. He was often 99% percent correct. Big Smile JO!*

*He was my first boss in the cryptographic maintenance career field. You couldn't find the most caring supervisor as JO. He was a man of gold - firm in decision making, fair to everyone and caring knowing that his decisions often affected that individual along with his troops. He was a fatherly figure to many. Oh my god JO, you are going to be sorely missed. I love you JO.*

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**Ben Canales** - March 07, 2025 at 04:55 PM