



## James Virgil Payne (USAF, TSgt RET)

September 4, 1932 - March 11, 2022

James Virgil Payne, Sr. (USAF, TSgt Ret)

James V. Payne (Jim) was born Sept. 4, 1932, in Porterdale, GA. He passed away at home in Castroville, TX to be with our Lord at the age of 89, on Mar. 11, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Blissos Ezell and Leila Olive Payne and his 6 brothers and sisters. Jim was the youngest of 7 children.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Amelia (Emilie) Payne of 66 years; children, James D. Payne, Shirley J. Caisse, Dolores (Terry) Graham (Scott P. Sr, CMSgt Ret), and James V. Payne

Jr.; grandchildren, SMSgt April S. Payne, Justin Payne, Christina Smith (Dustin), Christopher Graham (Amanda), 1Lt Scott P. Graham Jr. (Megan), Leila Yuras (Kevin), Katie Graham and Jake Graham; great-grandchildren; Pharyn, Lillian, Elijah, Gatling, Maverick, Jolie, and Ryland. We are saddened that he will not meet his 3 great-grandchildren due this year, although he was very hopeful.

Jim loved his country and was proud to serve in the United States Air Force. He joined the USAF on Apr. 12, 1951, at the age of 18. He attended Basic Training at Sheppard AFB, TX; Air Force Club Managers School at Ft. Lee, VA. then stationed at Ft. Meade, MD. He served during the Korean War from

Dec. 1951 to Mar. 1953. Following his tour in Korea, he was stationed at Brooks AFB, TX; Lackland AFB, TX; Ashier AB, Japan; Seoul, Osan, and Biyangdo Island, Korea; Elmendorf AFB, AK, during which time Jim and his family survived a major earthquake in 1964. He was assigned to Blytheville AFB, AR. and retired after 20 years of service on Apr. 30, 1971. Once retired, he moved his family to San Antonio, TX.

After retiring, Jim wasn't quite finished working for the Air Force. He worked as a NAF Employee and Civil Servant as the Assistant Club Manager then was promoted to Club Manager at the Lackland AFB NCO Club, from 1971-1996 at which time he retired for the second time.

Jim and Emilie moved to their dream home in 1998, which Emilie designed, in Castroville, TX. He loved his home and the quietness of a small town. He loved working in the yard and took pride in his work, he liked working crossword puzzles, woodworking, dancing, watching college football and the Dallas Cowboys; he was their #1 Fan. He loved spending time with his family, but especially with his grandchildren. Jim and Emilie co-founded Christmas in Castroville – Cause We Care, a charity program that provided food, presents and a visit with Santa Claus for the less than fortunate families every Christmas for 12 years directly from their home in Castroville, with the help of family and volunteers. Due to his illness, they had to turn it over to the Lutheran Church. Jim and Emilie also loved to travel to the Great Smoky Mountains and Gatlinburg, TN every fall.

Jim was a kind, patient and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend. Jim deeply loved his wife and always wanted to please her. His greatest fear was leaving his beloved Emilie alone. He was loved by many and will be deeply missed.

## FUNERAL SERVICES

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at Mission Park So., 1700 SE Military Dr., San Antonio, TX 78214, from 5pm – 8pm with a Rosary to begin at 6pm.

A Funeral Mass will take place at 12 pm on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at St. Louis Catholic Church, 1306 Angelo St., Castroville, TX 78009.

The interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, 1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd, San Antonio, TX. 78209.

Flowers are welcome or you can donate to the [copdfoundation.org/donate](https://copdfoundation.org/donate) in Memory of James V. Payne.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78209

# Previous Events

## Viewing

APR 5. 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/>

## Rosary

APR 5. 6:00 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 Mass

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APR 6. 12:00 PM.

St. Louis Catholic Church  
castroville , TX

# Tribute Wall

“ Post on behalf of Bill Coulter

*At the 2016 OFCMA Reunion in San Antonio, Bill Coulter, L, eloquently honored his mentor, Jim Payne, R. Coulter not only addressed Payne's leadership but, also, presented him with special medals of appreciation for Payne's service during the Korean Conflict.*

*Following are Mr. Coulter's remarks during the presentation.*

*"I am Bill Coulter. I retired from the Air Force and the 742 career field in 1982. I turned 17 in Jan. 1961. In Feb. 1961, I enlisted in the Air Force. In May of 1961, I was sent to RAF Wethersfield in England. I never drank a beer, smoked a cigarette, kissed a girl or drove a car. I did all in 2 weeks over there. I was stationed at Blytheville AFB in Arkansas from 1964 until 1970. I cross trained into the 742 Career in 1967. My mentor, Rabbi, teacher, Priest and career guidance Guru was Jim Payne. Jim instructed this young punk from Philly about the true meaning of what a club manager should be. Hell, I was busted so many times before I met Jim that I should of retired as an E-20.*

*Jim taught me respect for the Air Force and myself. Jim taught me the true meaning of integrity and what it means to be a hardworking, results-driven professional. Jim's favorite saying was "don't shit where you eat". Jim taught me inventory control, front and back of the house management, how to read and comprehend a financial statement. Jim was instrumental in my understanding of how important employee relations were, i.e., a happy employee translates into a happy member. The lessons Jim taught me lasted throughout my military career and well into my civilian life managing two private country clubs over a 24 year period. I was fortunate to teach at the University level at Rutgers School of Hospitality for a number of years. I only mention this because the lessons that I learned from Jim Payne are now in the minds of the students that I taught. Thank you, Jim.*

*I am the Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association of Atlantic County Chapter 234 in Somers Point, N.J.. I discovered that Jim was stationed in Korea during the Conflict. I requested, and was*

*granted, the authority from my Chapter and the Korea American Association of Southern New Jersey to present Jim with a medallion of appreciation and a medal of thanks from the Republic of Korea in recognition of his service during the Korean Conflict. The medals are accompanied by certificates of appreciation.*

*Thank you, Jim, for your service and for all that you have done for me and this great country.*

*God Bless America.”*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bill Coulter, Commander Chapter 234, KWVA*

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**Bill Coulter shared by Shirley Caisse - April 22, 2022 at 03:37 PM**

CJ

“ Cynthia Jaime

2 days ago

*I was blessed to call James V. Payne, "Tio". He was a loving and devoted husband of the quality you rarely see. His love and devotion extended to his children, grandchildren and great-grand children. My heart and prayers are with my Aunt and his family during this difficult time.*

*Tio was a man of God who lived his life by example. During the holidays, he served his community by providing food and gifts to the needy in Castroville. For years, he brought joy to his family, neighbors and community with his annual Christmas light displays. The light displays were beautiful, took days to set up and were truly a labor of love for him. Tio, your community will miss you.*

*I'm so proud and grateful for his service to our great country. Again, he lived his life by example; being one of a small percentage of brave Americans who sacrificed and dedicated his career to serving his country. He once shared some of his experience during the Korean war, I only wish I had had the opportunity to hear more of his stories of his time in the military. Tio, your sacrifices will not be forgotten.*

*Our visits to Castroville will never be the same. Walley and I will both miss our visits with you and Aunt Emilie. You always greeted us with a warm smile and wonderful hospitality. We will miss the wonderful conversations of military life, life in Castroville, your trips to the Smokey Mountains, and so much more. You will be missed, but your memory will live on in our hearts. Rest in peace dear Uncle.*

*Cindy and Walley Jaime*

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Cindy Jaime - April 04, 2022 at 11:46 PM

AB

“ *Mr. Payne was an amazing person who had a heart as big as gold. He loved the Lackland club and always strive to serve the people. Treated his employees like it was one big family. Loved his family more than anything. Exceptionally proud of his lovely wife. I am thankful to have worked as part of his team. Most gracious and beautiful wife and supporter. Thanks for sharing h with is for so many years.*

*Andy Britt*

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**Andy Britt** - April 04, 2022 at 08:09 PM

PM

“ *May god be with aunt Amelia and cousins Shirley, James, Jimmy and Terry at this time and days to come.*



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**Patricia Limón Medina** - April 03, 2022 at 11:19 PM

MM

“ *My condolences. I feel very blessed to have Mr. Payne in my life. And the grandfather of my daughter April, He was a very kind person. He was always on a mission to please his wife no matter what. He was a very caring person with a heart of gold. I have always appreciated him and his care for his family and wife. He was such a beautiful blessing. May God bless the Payne family and comfort them at this time. I love you all very much. Mary April's Mom.*

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**Mary April's Mom** - April 03, 2022 at 03:37 PM

AC

“ Anita Conder

*Sending all our love and prayers to your family. I met the Payne family through Shirley. We had some wonderful times together especially wrapping gifts and giving them out for the Christmas in Castroville. I pray you find comfort in your memories of Mr. Payne. He was a wonderful man.*

*Anita and Randy Conder*

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**Anita Conder** - April 02, 2022 at 12:38 AM

SH

“ Shirley And Fred Holscher

2 days ago

*We have many wonderful memories of spending time with the Payne's.*

*When Virgil was the club manager at Lackland, our New Year's Eve was such fun!! We partied the night away and they always included us as part of the family and special guests. His wonderful daughter Shirley and I worked together at*

*the Finance Office at Lackland. That's where we met. We shared an office space and our first name. We would help the Payne's with their Christmas project and He was such a wonderful guiding force in making it happen. His home was his pride and joy and at Christmas he would spend hours putting up lights for the whole neighborhood to enjoy and we surely enjoyed them also!!*

*As he aged he always was working on projects around the house. He loved his home and his family and his country!!*

*We would go visit him on Veterans Day and Memorial Day just to let him know that we appreciated all he did for us all!!*

*We will miss that welcoming smile!!*

*May God bless you with Peace in His Heavenly Kingdom!! 🙏❤️☐*

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**Shirley and Fred Holscher** - April 02, 2022 at 12:25 AM

DC

“ *My condolences to the Payne family. May you find strength and comfort in our Lord and in one another in the difficult days to come.*



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**Dina Limon Casanova** - March 30, 2022 at 11:03 PM

SC

“ From: Terri Satterwhite  
Date: Tue, Mar 22, 2022 at 8:10 AM

*You were such a lucky lady to have such a distinguished gentleman for a husband. Some of us wish we were as lucky. Those of us who have a good man recognize another. Sending all of my love and prayers your way... Please don't hesitate to call me anytime. Love you, Terri*

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**Shirley Caisse** - March 29, 2022 at 12:01 PM

GM

“ Shirley and I met at Kelly AFB in the 80's working in the finance department. We began roommates and that's when I met Mr Payne & Mrs Payne. I would go with her to visit the parents. My precious memory about Mr Payne that he would asked Shirley & I why were single and we were beautiful & kind. He would bring it up every time we go visit him. We finally told him that we are very blessed to work for the government and we don't need a man to support us with our girls ..He was very worried about us living on our own. I will miss our laughs and our memories together. RIP Mr Payne 🙏🙏💙🇺🇸

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**Grace Medrano** - March 26, 2022 at 08:02 PM

SH

*We have many wonderful memories of spending time with the Payne's. When Virgil was the club manager at Lackland, our New Year's Eve was such fun!! We partied the night away and they always included us as part of the family and special guests. His wonderful daughter Shirley and I worked together at the Finance Office at Lackland. That's where we met. We shared an office space and our first name. We would help the Payne's with their Christmas project and He was such a wonderful guiding force in making it happen. His home was his pride and joy and at Christmas he would spend hours putting up lights for the whole neighborhood to enjoy and we surely enjoyed them also!! As he aged he always was working on projects around the house. He loved his home and his family and his country!! We would go visit him on Veterans Day and Memorial Day just to let him know that we appreciated all he did for us all!! We will miss that welcoming smile!! May God bless you with Peace in His Heavenly Kingdom!! 🙏❤️☐*

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**Shirley And Fred Holscher** - March 30, 2022 at 02:15 PM

AC

*Sending all our love and prayers to your family. I met the Payne family through Shirley. We had some wonderful times together especially wrapping gifts and giving them out for the Christmas in Castroville. I pray you find comfort in your memories of Mr. Payne. He was a wonderful man.*

*Anita and Randy Conder*

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**Anita Conder** - April 01, 2022 at 02:34 PM

CJ

*I was blessed to call James V. Payne, "Tio". He was a loving and devoted husband of the quality you rarely see. His love and devotion extended to his children, grandchildren and great-grand children. My heart and prayers are with my Aunt and his family during this difficult time.*

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*Cindy and Walley Jaime*

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**Cynthia Jaime** - April 02, 2022 at 02:38 PM