



## Jimmie T. Austin

November 10, 1934 - December 9, 2010

Lt. Col. Jimmie T. Austin, USAF Ret., age 76, passed away Thursday, December 9, 2010. Jimmie was born on November 10, 1934, near Wellman, TX, to Harold and Madge Austin. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Ruth Ahrberg Austin, and his three children and six grandchildren; Anita and Carl Stone of Keller, TX, their children Jeff and Joe; Debbie and TK Smith of San Antonio, TX, their children Austin and Taylor; and Jim and Jennifer Austin of Denton, TX, their children Katy and Zach. He was preceded in death by his parents, and survived by two brothers and three sisters, Col. Hal Austin, USAF Ret., Evelyn Barger, Jo Carroll Dycus, Lt. Col. Don Austin, USAF Ret., and Dardanella Dart Allmendinger. Jim spent most of his youth in Carlsbad, NM, and graduated from high school there in 1953. After working his way through a few years at New Mexico State University, Jim entered the Air Force in 1957 in San Antonio, TX. He graduated from flight school in Enid, OK, where he met his future wife, Ruth Marie Ahrberg, a school teacher. They married on August 19, 1961. Jim flew B-47s, B-52s and T-39s as part of the Strategic Air Command SAC. Flying bombers was his childhood dream. Jim and Ruth's travels with the Air Force took them to Mountain Home AFB, ID, Clinton Sherman AFB, OK, Mather AFB, CA, Offutt AFB, NE, and Grand Forks AFB, ND. During the Vietnam War Jim went on four six month tours, flying 190 missions. During one tour he missed the birth of his son and during his last tour he finished his class work and in May 1973 earned his BA in Business Administration. Jim was a very dedicated, proud, and patriotic Air

Force officer; he retired in 1979 to Colorado Springs, CO, as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 5, 000 flying hours as a Command Pilot. His military decorations include: the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters, and numerous other awards and decorations. During his second career in Colorado Springs he was licensed as a Home Builder and a Real Estate Broker. He spent most of his time selling steel products to homebuilders. He really enjoyed working and continued to work until February 2008 at the age of 73 when they moved to San Antonio, due to Ruth's illness and to be closer to his children. He was a very attentive, caring, and active husband and father, never missing a school function for his children. Even though his children moved out of Colorado he continued to visit them and his grandchildren often. Jim is loved and will be deeply missed by his family and friends. A service will be held Monday, December 20, 2010, at 2pm at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1416 N. Loop 1604 E., San Antonio, TX, followed by an interment and then a reception in the Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Strategic Air and Space Museum, 28210 West Park Highway, Ashland, NE 68003. You are invited to sign the guestbook at <http://www.missionparks.com/> and select obituaries.

# Tribute Wall

CJ

“ Once I came to the house for some ADK paperwork. Ruth and Jim had just moved to the lower level of the house and were ribbing each other about whose "stuff" occupied more room. Glad I witnessed the love and humor you shared for so long! Love to you all.

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**Cay Jurgensen** - December 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ James - I was very sad to hear of your loss. I always liked your dad a lot - I have fond memories of him taking us to football games at the Air Force Academy and taking us to movies when we were kids. He was very kind and gentle. Give your mom and sist

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**Shawn & Shauna Rapjack** - December 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Ruth, I was saddened to hear of Jimmie's death and my prayers and thoughts are you with you and your family at this time. He was a great guy and I know you will have lots of wonderful memories to remember him.

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**Lavonne Neatherlin** - December 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Ruth,  
My thoughts are with you and your family during this very difficult time.

*Jane Willhoit*

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**Jane Willhoit** - December 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WT

“ Dear Ruth, I'm praying for you and your family during this time of your husband's passing. I also remember so many wonderful times you and I had together at ADK.  
Love, Wanda

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**Wanda Tydingco** - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Jimmie and I shared many hours together riding bikes all over the area around Carlsbad and many days in many 4H projects. He was one of my closes friends for many years, he and his family are very dear to me.  
Jimmie was always planning to become a Pilot

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**Ken Bridwell** - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Jim was a very special person and he will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. We are honored to have known him both as a friend and a relative. Hugs to all the family, I'm so sorry we cannot be there. Jim and Carolyn Welch

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**Jim & Carolyn Welch** - December 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ Jimmie & I went all through school together from grade school on. He was so much fun & such a good friend to everyone. Over the years have enjoyed seeing him & others at our Class Reunions & going over old times. He will be missed by all.

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**Willene King Roberts** - December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ Sorry to hear of Jimmie T's passing, our memories of him will never fade.

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**Hal Hixenbaugh** - December 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ To my friend Ruth and family,

*My heartfelt sympathy to you all. I do not know if you remember me, but I worked with you at Carver Elementary for so many years. Jim sounded like an amazing man, husband and father. Love and prayers. Barb Emerson*

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**BARB EMERSON** - December 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM