



Lt. Col. Justin Welch Shires, USAF Ret.

May 24, 1925 - January 16, 2007

Lt. Col. Justin Welch “Cowboy” Shires, USAF Ret., age 81, passed away on January 16, 2007 after a long bout with cancer. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jane. He is survived by his daughter, Judy Alva of Bulverde, daughter, Janet Shires and son, Justin L. Shires, both of San Antonio; sisters, Lola Beth Rogers of Lubbock and Mattie Lee Shires of Houston; granddaughters, Holly Rebollo of San Antonio and Heather McGarity of Killeen; and 5 great-grandchildren.

Justin was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma. He served 30 years in the Air Force, was a WW II vet, a pilot, was a member of the Inspection General Team, and served in Air Rescue. He spent time in the Azores, Okinawa, and many states in the US.

Justin was an avid R.V. traveller, attending Air Force squadron reunions as well as recreational travels with his R.V. groups. The past five years he was a volunteer at Brook Army Medical Center. He will be deeply missed by many.

SERVICES

Visitation will be from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm Tuesday, January 23, 2007 in Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Funeral services will be at 12:00 pm Wednesday, January 24, 2007 in Mission Park Funeral Chapels North.

Graveside services and interment with Military Honors will follow in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the American Cancer Society, 8115 Datapoint Dr., San Antonio, Tx.

78229

Tribute Wall

GF

“ I had a dream last night that someone emailed me about Justin's death. I found this today.

I had the honor and privilege of calling Justin my friend after attending the AFV conference in 2002. He was my sponsor. He had signed up on the wrong list, a

Gerry Franklin - April 03, 2008 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ Thanks, Larry for letting us know about your father's passing. We are grateful for the many times he stopped thru the Springs while RV-ing to have a short visit with us. We served together at Lajes and we made frequent visits to S.A. after our retireme

Wally And Evie Smith - March 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Thanks Larry for letting us know about your father - We are glad we took the opportunity to be in San Antonio to celebrate Justin's 80th birthday - We believe that friendships are eternal and that we'll have the great privilege of associating with your Da

Leon and Janie Heaps - February 09, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Sorry that we are unable to attend the services! We remember Justin from Langley days in the refueling area of his career. We have continued our relationship here at AF Villages. We offer our sympathy to his family and pray for your comfort in his ascenio

Ray & annabelle Kehl - January 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Sorry to hear the sad news.

Maj. & Mrs. Hal Finley - January 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Ciao, Cowboy. Grazie for your contribution to the Greatest Generation.*

Barbara Grooms - January 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Judy, We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you.*

Katie and Mike Durbin - January 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your father. He will always be remembered as a very kind and generous man. His smile and his presence would warm up a room. He will be missed by all who loved him and knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Larry & Mary Mondragon - January 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *We're sorry we can't be at the services, but we are traveling in our motorhome and can't make it back in time.*

Justin was a "Great Guy" and we really enjoyed our times with him in the "Happy Traveler's RV Club" & when we went got together at other tim

Betty Sones/Thelma Rupert - January 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Shires family. Justin was a kind and good-hearted gentleman and will be missed.*

*Frances McElroy
Air Force Village I
San Antonio, TX*

Frances McElroy - January 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *Judy, Janet, and Larry..I have known you and your family for over thirty years...Your Mom and Dad always made me feel like part of the family maybe because I was at that time..where ever you were.....I was there.....Larry, you look so much like your Dad....*

McGuyer Family - January 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *We are losing a gentleman of the first order.*

Dr. Kenneth and Lt Col Colleen Shanklin - January 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ *Judy, Janet, and Larry. So sorry for your loss. The last time I saw your dad, he came by the office to see me. Lost contact after that, but did try to keep in touch, but did not know where he had moved after he sold the new home. He is back with your mom.*

Peggy Ervin - January 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Judy & Willie,
Aiko and I want to express our sincere condolences on the passing of Justin. Mere words can not express the level of your berevement at a time like this. I believe that Justin is in a better place and can spend the rest of eternity in pe

Larry & Aiko Alva - January 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ My deepest symphy to the family. Justin will really be missed. i will never forget Justin getting his hair cut. He was very fussy about his hair. We always had a good time cutting his hair. I worked in the salon at Air Force Village. I'll never forget him. Hi

Linda Tedford - January 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Judy, Willie and Family We were sorry to hear about your loss, we always enjoyed seeing Justin at the Sunday Brunch.

George & Anne Miller - January 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ Justin has been my friend and neighbor here at Air Force Village I for a number of years. We have spent many happy times together. He will be missed but also remembered by all as a true and great friend.

Francis L Grable, Col. USAF Ret - January 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Sorry for your loss.
We had some great times with Justin at several TAC Tankers Association reunions.

Myrtis & Floyd Perkins - January 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ My late husband and I knew Justin when we were stationed at Dow AFB, Maine and later in Texas. We also saw him in Bermuda and I had lunch with him several years ago while visiting a friend in San Antonio.

Betty Jo Collins - January 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ We shared a half century of friendship, mutual respect, and memories, starting with operations duties in Okinawa in 1957 with the 581st Air Resupply Group. Farewell, Jus, and happy landing.

John and Edith Devitt - January 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We loved Justin. His warm smile was precious and what a wonderful sense of humor. He was charming and fun to be with. We will miss him.

Jack & Lynn Church - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Justin, dear friend, I am going to miss you. But thank you for being part of so many memories in mine and Tommy's life over the past 14 years... The Happy Travelers, the camp-outs, & trips...especially that month long trip to Florida with you and Betty,

Ruth Blanton - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ With our deepest sympathy on the lost of your loved one. Justin was a wonderful person. He will be greatly missed. Just this past Thanksgiving Holiday, he was as always, very gracious and such a nice person to be around. Always smiling and happy to be

Linda, Brian and Lauren Clark - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Uncle Justin was my favorite uncle. I will miss getting to see him. He was a great man. But, as the Apostle Paul said, "We don't sorrow as those who have no hope." We know he is with the Lord and we'll see him again someday.

John Rogers - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ I met Justin in 1991 just after John and I married. He and John met me at the airport in San Antonio. Justin was such a sweet, funny gentleman. I loved him from the moment I met him and even more the last time I saw him. Even though I haven't known him

Carla Rogers - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Uncle Justin was a wonderful man, a member of "the greatest generation". He fought valiantly. He was a true hero. May God bless and comfort my cousins and extended family.

Bill Rogers - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ We will always treasure our association with Justin, Mary Jane and their family. Our times together in the Air Force, the Daedalians, Air Rescue, SMART and our RV travels around the country were always more enjoyable because of him. We regret that we were

Lt Col Ret & Mary Shaddox - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Justin, please keep following, we wont miss the turn. If you miss it, we will see you later..

Gene & Iris Shaddox - January 20, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ Col Shires was a resident and i considered him a very good friend. I work for the Air Force Village 1 front desk and Col Shires visited with me lots of times during the years that i knew him. He will be greatly missed by myself and many others here at t

harry 'cleve' cleveland - January 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM