



Wayman Emery James

July 13, 1932 - April 26, 2021

Wayman Emery James passed away on Monday, April 26th, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 88. His battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed his courage in facing life challenges with a smile. Despite the pain, Wayman came out a hero and stayed strong until the end.

Wayman Emery James was born in Tilden Nebraska on July 13th, 1932. He was the ninth out of eleven children. He is preceded in death by his parents William Emery James and Lorilla Mae Bomar James, his brothers Floyd James, Henry Porter James, George Hanley James, and Cecil James. Sisters, Jeannie James Sandquist and Leona James Brockman. And, daughter-in-law, Lynn James.

He is survived by siblings, Herbert Robert James, twins Lyle Nathaniel and Milan Elwood James, and one sister Helen James Halsey. He is also survived by his beautiful wife of 65 years and their five children, Rosanne James Helmick (Billy), Beverly Jean James Black, Sheila Mae James Spears (Ronnie Starr), Mitchell Wayne James, and Shawnee Lynn James Cervantes (Mike Arciniega). He has fourteen grandchildren, Billy Carl Helmick Jr., Wayman Lynn Helmick, Lindsey Helmick Zamora, Christina Kiolbassa Gamez, Nathan and Stephen Kiolbassa (father, Patrick Kiolbassa), Mandy Mann Olvera (deceased father, Rodney Mann), Terry and Amy Spears (father, Thomas Spears), Christopher Spring, Nicholas James, Jenavie Aguilar Musgray

(father, Fernando Aguilar III), Ciara and Gabriella Cervantes (father, Raul R. Cervantes), Twenty-five great grandchildren, and eleven great-great grandchildren.

Wayman graduated from Neligh High School in Nebraska in 1948 at the young age of sixteen. He attended Nebraska Christian College, where he was studying to become a minister. However, all that changed with the influence of his older brothers that convinced him to serve his country. So, in 1952, he joined the United States Air Force.

During his time in the Air Force, he served two tours in Vietnam. He received a Bronze Star Medal for his service in Vietnam from 1965-1966 and also received a Meritorious Service Medal. He also traveled to many other countries to include Japan, Korea, and was stationed at several Air Force Bases in the United States where he worked as a Legal Services Superintendent and Paralegal for the Judge Advocates Office.

In December of 1955, while stationed at Laughlin Air Force base in Del Rio, Texas, he met the love of his life, his Indian princess, Dominga Felan. And, in a whirlwind romance, after knowing each other for just two weeks, they eloped to Acuna, Mexico where they came upon a small shoe-shine boy, paid him \$5 dollars to find a judge and were married on New Year's Eve (December 31st, 1955). This is where their love story began, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer for over 65 years! Their love was truly one of a kind!

After serving in the Air Force for 26 years, Wayman finally retired from Randolph AFB in March of 1978. The thought of not working was unacceptable so he kept himself busy throughout the many years to come. He had a lawn care business and involved all his children to show them the importance of earning money at a very young age. He invested with a friend

and got into the shrimp bait business. He established the “James Small Engine Repair Shop”. He later sold cars for Main Lincoln Mercury and also worked as an insurance claims adjuster for Towne Van Lines. He was an endless hard-working man.

In addition to his incredible work ethic, Wayman was a master musician. He could play just about every instrument he picked up, but his heart strings were on the bow of his fiddle. He was a member of many bands in his lifetime The Misawans, The Entertainers, and The Stardust Cowboys. He also enjoyed family gatherings where most family members would all join in with their instruments and would have one big family jam session.

He was a true definition of a Humanitarian. Wayman was also known as “Sarge” or “Pops”. He was the kindest person to everyone who crossed his path. He never judged a living soul and was always quick to help a stranger in need. He treated every single person with respect, kindness, generosity, and unconditional love. He was humble yet generous. He welcomed many people into his home that were in need of shelter, food, money, or just plain down on their luck. He had a special love for animals and often rescued many strays. He was a great fisherman. He would often load up fishing poles in his little brown Toyota truck that had a big sticker on the back which read “Let’s Go Fishing”! He also had the greenest thumb and grew his own fruits and vegetables, enjoyed working in his yard, and he always helped his fellow neighbors by keeping their lawns nice and neat. He was also a skillful repairman that could fix anything from broken cars to broken hearts! He was always tinkering in his garage. His motto “Don’t Buy it Because I Can Make It!” But above all these amazing qualities, his biggest accomplishment was his family and the unconditional love for each individual member.

Wayman was a God-fearing man, a big believer in prayer, and put all his faith

in Jesus Christ. He will be sincerely missed by all his family and friends. His memory will live on in the many hearts he touched.

Viewing visitation will be from 5pm to 7pm at Dellcrest Funeral Home on Friday, May 7th, 2021. Prayer service will follow from 7pm to 8pm.

The procession will take place on Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 at 12:30pm at Dellcrest Funeral Home. Interment will be at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery at 1:15pm.

In remembrance of Wayman E. James life, the family asks that you consider making a charitable donation in lieu of flowers to:

Alzheimer's Texas

7719 Wood Hollow Drive, Suite 157

Austin, Texas 78731

[//www.txalz.org/donate/](http://www.txalz.org/donate/)

In Memory of

Wayman E. James

Cemetery Details

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Dellcrest Funeral Home
2023 S WW White Rd
San Antonio, TX 78222
(210) 337-4082
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Prayer Service

MAY 7. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dellcrest Funeral Home
2023 S WW White Rd
San Antonio, TX 78222
(210) 337-4082
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Interment with Military Honors

MAY 26. 1:15 PM (CT)

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 820-3891

Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of Wayman Emery James*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - May 07, 2021 at 04:47 PM

RH

“ *We have so many pictures, but were limited to just a few. I love my Daddy and if you knew him, you would love him too.*

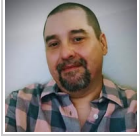
Rosanne J. Helmick - May 23, 2021 at 01:17 PM

LS

“ *Pop's you will be deeply missed. I remember all of us going to Bingo and just sitting there and having a great time. I will always cherish the memories of you playing your fiddle and guitar and singing all of those special old country music. You can now play your beautiful music in heaven for our Heavenly Father. Until we meet again in heaven RIP Pop's. God now has you in his arms, but we have your memories in our hearts. Love you Pop's, Linda J Smith*



Linda J Smith - May 23, 2021 at 01:16 PM



“ *I miss the weekend late night BBQs in the backyard and watching him, Billy, and Pat play old country music with the guitars, fiddle and drums right there in front of you live. Back then it seemed like it went on till the early morning hours. Good food, good music, good people, and one HELL OF A MAN! You will be missed dearly.*

Terry Spears - May 07, 2021 at 07:07 PM

RH

So glad you have these good memories of your childhood and Grandpa James backyard BBQ's, my dear nephew. Grandpa loved you, and your Daddy and sisters. ❤️

Rosanne James Helmick - May 10, 2021 at 10:06 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayman Emery James.*



May 06, 2021 at 06:47 AM