



## James A. Lynaugh, III

January 27, 1940 - November 6, 2019

James A. Lynaugh, III was born on January 27, 1940 and passed away on November 6, 2019 at the age of 79.

Throughout his life, Jim Lynaugh was dedicated to serving the people of Texas. Jim began his life-long career in public service with the Texas Office of the State Comptroller. As a young man, he served as the Assistant Director of the Claims Division, where he brought about many improvements in how state agencies handled their claims and payrolls. Recognized for his leadership and ability to foster positive change, he was selected by Bob Bullock to become one of his key deputies and was named Chief Financial Officer for the State Comptroller. Jim Lynaugh's financial expertise and experience working with the Comptroller's Office as well as his in-depth understanding of state government and the legislative process was widely recognized by State leadership and his peers. During this time, he was elected to serve as president of the Texas State Agency Business Administrator's Association.

In 1984, Mr. Lynaugh left the Comptroller's Office to assume responsibilities as the Deputy Director of Finance for the Texas Department of Corrections during a time of tremendous financial challenges at TDC as the department struggled with limited resources and increasing federal court requirements for change. As Deputy Director of Finance, his management and leadership as well as his ability to navigate the legislative appropriations process provided a

solid foundation for the department. In 1987, Jim was selected by the Texas Board of Corrections to serve as Executive Director of the Texas Department of Corrections. In 1989, the Texas Legislature consolidated the state prison system, the state parole system and the adult probation department into a single agency to be called the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Mr. Lynaugh was selected to serve as the first Executive Director of the consolidated agency, a position he held until 1993. During his tenure as Executive Director, Lynaugh directed the agency through the consolidation process, oversaw the largest prison expansion in the nation's history, implemented the new state jail system, and led the agency out from active federal court supervision. In September of 1994, the new prison built in Fort Stockton was named the James Lynaugh Unit in recognition of his service and dedicated leadership.

Following his career at TDCJ, Jim became the Chief Financial Officer for the newly formed Correctional Managed Health Care program, working with TDCJ, the University of Texas Medical Branch and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. This unique partnership was established by the Texas legislature to develop and deliver effective and efficient health care services to the state's incarcerated population by leveraging the state medical school's expertise and managed care practices. In 1998, the Texas correctional health care program he helped to build was recognized by the American Correctional Association as one of the nation's "Best Practices."

Jim Lynaugh retired from public service in 2003 after a long and distinguished career. Jim loved his family and cherished the many friends he made over the years. He truly enjoyed spending time outdoors. Among his hobbies were boating, collecting firearms, working on his property and spending time with his beloved dogs.

Jim is survived by his son, James and wife Sara; sister Sue and husband

Wesley Schneider; and niece Carolyn and husband Kris Walsh. He was preceded in death by his wife Maxine, who he loved deeply.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 pm on Wednesday November 13, 2019 at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville Texas.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 13. 3:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr.  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
(936) 291-7300  
belinda@shmfh.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *James A. Lynaugh, III*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of James A. Lynaugh, III*



**M. Hyvl** - November 23, 2019 at 12:46 PM



“ *Gayle Spears Kelly lit a candle in memory of James A. Lynaugh, III*



**Gayle Spears Kelly** - November 13, 2019 at 08:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James A. Lynaugh, III.*



November 12, 2019 at 05:27 PM

MH

“ Mike, Margaret, Joe, and Mark Hentschel purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James A. Lynaugh, III.



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**Mike, Margaret, Joe, and Mark Hentschel** - November 12, 2019 at 04:35 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James A. Lynaugh, III.



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November 12, 2019 at 02:45 PM

DM

“ Jim was one of my closest friends. I will miss him a lot. Dub Maedgen

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**Dub Maedgen** - November 12, 2019 at 09:05 AM

RK

“ Ramona Koch lit a candle in memory of James A. Lynaugh, III



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**Ramona Koch** - November 12, 2019 at 05:06 AM

JP

“ Was an honor to have known and worked with Mr. Lynaugh. He was soft spoken and was truly concerned for the future TDCJ and the State of Texas. Rest In Peace my Friend!

jerry peterson - November 11, 2019 at 12:20 PM

VE

“ Vicki Easley lit a candle in memory of James A. Lynaugh, III



Vicki Easley - November 11, 2019 at 11:20 AM



“ It was an honor for me to have had the privilege of serving as the first warden of the unit named after him in Fort Stockton, Tx. He was highly regarded by the residents in Pecos County so much so that they named their unit after him. He loved the quail hunts out there also.

Terry Foster

Terry Foster - November 10, 2019 at 08:14 PM

LK

“ James, I considered your father a loyal friend and a great leader who would listen to both sides of the issue and would make what he thought was the best decision for TDCJ and the state of Texas. I have many fond memories of the time i spent working under his direction, he will be missed

LARRY L KYLE - November 10, 2019 at 06:15 PM

SS

“ Jim was my big brother. He teased me and protected me as big brothers do both. Whether he knew it or not, in my mind he took the place of our Father who passed away when I was just 13. Jim was 19 at the time. He was always there if I needed help. I loved and still love him very much. I miss him so much already. Love, Sue Schneider

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**Sue Ann Schneider** - November 10, 2019 at 05:45 PM

SB

“ James  
I can't put into words what your father has meant to Tati and me. He was a very loyal friend who never hesitated to help. I am glad to have spent numerous times together with him enjoying a cold beer and sharing stories. The stories about his time at his beloved University of Texas and his time in a fraternity will always bring a smile to my face. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of your family. Sam & Tati Buentello

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**sam buentello** - November 09, 2019 at 09:38 PM

JF

“ I have a lot of fond memories of my friend Jame's dad Jim Lynaugh. A favorite that comes to mind was going dove hunting in 1997 with him, James, and James's uncle.

*My family wishes yours the very best in this time of mourning.*

*Sincerely, Jason Fuqua*

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**Jason Fuqua** - November 09, 2019 at 12:22 PM

DB

“ *Mr. Lynaugh was sometimes accused of not being in touch with his employees @ TDCJ - however - I still remember the day he and Mr. Riley walked into MD Anderson to visit my husband. They also made sure I didn't need anything they could help me with. For this reason and many others, he deserved the loyalty he received from many of his employees.  
My condolences to his son.*

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**Dena Byrd** - November 08, 2019 at 02:14 PM

JR

“ *Jim was a great Texan who dedicated his public life in service of his fellow Texans. He loved Texas, his family, and those who were blessed to serve with him. He was a dear friend who will be missed but his wonderful memories will last forever.*

*Jim & Barbara Riley*

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**Jim Riley** - November 08, 2019 at 09:49 AM

CB

“ *Him was one of the finest public servants ever. Smart, progressive and kind. I knew him at Bullock's office when he was Comptroller. Loved working with Jim. Love and light to Jim's family.*

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**Cecelia Burke** - November 07, 2019 at 10:58 AM