



James Ray Rathke

November 14, 1941 - June 4, 2014

Our loving husband and father, James Ray Rathke, passed away May 31, 2014 at the age of 72 in Montgomery, TX. He was born November 14, 1941 in San Antonio, TX to James Calvin Rathke & Mary Catherine Banks Rathke. He spent 20 years in service to his country as a proud member of the USAF, managed Red River Aggregate in Altus, OK for a few years, then continued with a career as an instructor to the pilots of Federal Express for another 23 years in Southaven, MS until retiring to Montgomery TX in 2009. He loved his family, his country, the State of Texas, fishing, spending time with grandkids, and he had a great passion for anything to do with aviation. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Ruth Ann Chambers Rathke; their son, James H. Rathke and his wife Kim; two daughters, Pattie Morgan and her husband Peter, Jeanne McKinny and her husband Kevin; seven grandchildren, Brandon Madl and his wife Tia, Patrick Madl and his wife Rachel, Sylvia McCammon, James M. Rathke, Caysi Kirby, CJ Kirby and his wife Kate and Scott McKinny; one great grandson Rowen James Kirby the light of his life; his brother William H. Rathke; and a great many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A memorial service will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Montgomery, TX at 1pm, Wednesday, June 4, 2014. The family requests any donations be sent to the American Cancer Society or MD Anderson Cancer Research. Please leave memorial condolences on our website at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall

WG

“ I was a friend of man that went by Jimmy Ray Rathke .we were stationed with the Air Force at Lockbourne Air Force Base in Columbus Ohio. He married a girl named Ruth Ann. She knew Sanfie Fisher Gauger. She was married to an airman from the base in Columbus. We saw them once in Amarillo Texas and the last time was at Dover AFB Delaware. If this is the same couple will Ruthann please email me at williamgauger38@gmail.com.

William Gauger - March 31 at 09:34 PM



“ James Ray Rathke

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM

RS

“ Ruth, Jim was the Best of the Best! Loved and respected by everyone that knew him. I will forever treasure my friendship with Jim. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Roger Spealman - June 07, 2014 at 03:20 PM

JG

“ Ruth, I too would like to say how sorry I am for you and your family. I don't know if you remember me or not, but I met you once at Red River Aggregate, I was his assistant foreman there. I was the one that helped him get the hang of things when they put him there. He was well liked by all the guys working there. He will be missed.

Jim Gray - June 06, 2014 at 01:05 PM

JM

“ To the Rathke family, I had the pleasure of working with Jim for many years in the Flight Training department. What a wonderful man he was, always smiling, always something funny or sweet to say, and always a smile on his face. Thinking of his family during this difficult time. The heavens are singing with his sweet presence.

Janie Miller - June 06, 2014 at 09:29 AM

MG

“ I am sorry for your loss. Jim was my instructor when I was a new hire. I found him to be a very kind man and a great instructor. Again, please accept my condolences.

Mike Gravitt - June 05, 2014 at 06:10 PM

SW

“ Ruth and Girls,
Your husband and daddy touched my life in my time of working with him at FedEx in the training department. I still hear wonderful, funny stories about Jim. Know he touched many lives within FedEx.
Our prayers are with you.

Todd, Sarah and Molly Williams

Sarah Williams - June 05, 2014 at 06:03 PM

BT

“ Ruth, I am so sorry to hear about Jim, I know you will miss him. My Jim enjoyed working with him at FedEx. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Barbara Turner - June 04, 2014 at 12:59 PM

RH

“ *Ruth ours prayers for you and the family will be with you, asking Him to Guide, Heal, and Comfort y'all during this time. Rhonda and I both worked with Jim in the 727 Sim. Jim was so much fun & a pleasure to work with, a joy to his fellow instructors, & a true asset to his students.*

Rick and Rhonda Hasley - June 04, 2014 at 11:09 AM

JG

“ *Our Lord Jesus needed a Flight Engineer for a project so he called the best home! Jim and I flew many B-727 flight test events together. He was the most dependable and trustworthy engineer that I had the honor to fly with. I know that he is preflighting the jet on heavens ramp - just waiting for me!*

John Ganley - June 04, 2014 at 10:56 AM

MC

“ *Ruth, we are so sorry to hear about Jim. We are praying for your family.*

James, Missy, Kristen, Kelcey and Sydney Cooper

Missy Cooper - June 04, 2014 at 09:27 AM

BA

“ *Dear Ruthie: Bill & I share your sorrow at this time. Saw Lonnie Terbush Monday and he told us about Jim. He was the only one who called me Clarabelle and got away with it. We remember all the good times at Surplus City in Altus and our get togethers. God Bless you & yours at this difficult time. We love you more...Bill & Ann Akins*

Bill & Ann Akins - June 03, 2014 at 08:58 PM

SW

“ Ruth, Stacey and I have loved you and Jim since the day we met you. We felt closer to you two than just being in laws. We can not even imagine the loss you feel right now but know that we love you and are keeping you in our prayers. I have told Kevin to make sure you have my phone number so you can call me any time day or night. Jim is clearing the way for us all so we will be in the express lane on the day we all will meet him again. Love you, Sharon and Stacey

Sharon and Stacey Wolfe - June 03, 2014 at 01:39 PM

RW

“ Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you as a family at this time. May the Good Lord bless and give you the strength and comfort at this time.

Ron Wolfe - June 03, 2014 at 09:59 AM

MW

“ So many great memories of Jim...and most all of them make me laugh. What a wonderful sense of humor! And he was one of those rare people you could always rely on, for help, for encouragement, for a smile and a hug when you needed it. I wish so much I could be there with you all tomorrow. I will be praying for y'all, and remembering Jim, and thanking God for the time we had with him. Love you all...

Marian Williams - June 03, 2014 at 09:26 AM

PS

“ Ruth, I enjoyed working with Jim in Flight Test and 727 Training. He always had answers for the tough questions and I don't ever remember seeing him without a smile on his face. He will be greatly missed by me and all the people he touched. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Phil Shidler - June 03, 2014 at 09:13 AM

SR

“ I really don't have words to write, but I am so thankful to God for blessing our lives with your family. we love you, when you want to talk I am here. I love you

sherry & michael ross - June 02, 2014 at 06:04 PM

RW

“ I will miss you buddy! I will miss your sense of humor, your quick smile, your servants heart, your wisdom, but most of all, your friendship. We could never have started LifeSpring without you and Ruth. I will always give thanks for you.
Your friend and pastor,
Rick Williams

Rick Williams - June 02, 2014 at 05:43 PM

KE

“ Ruth, Jim was loved by all of us fellow B727 instructors at FedEx. I always enjoyed working with him; he always could answer my questions. Know that you and your family are in my prayers.

Kimberly Eggert - June 02, 2014 at 05:28 PM

DW

“ You know Jim was loved by all who knew him and we will all miss him greatly. Praying for God's peace as you go though this time.
Love to all

Debbie Widdows - June 02, 2014 at 12:30 PM

JH

“ Ruth I cannot express how this has affected us all. We are so sorry and will keep you and the family in our thoughts and prayers. We all have many fond memories of working and flying with Jim over the years at FedEex and Altus especially the famed Rathke rail in the CPT and the wing leveler incident with Mac in West Memphis. Please know that we will miss him and we will keep his memory alive within us as long as we are alive.

Jim and Paula Harris - June 02, 2014 at 12:28 PM