



## Mr. James Richard Gaus

August 6, 1963 - December 5, 2023

James Richard Gaus, 60, of Roswell, GA, passed away unexpectedly on December 5, 2023. He was born August 6, 1963 in Watertown, NY to Edward and Mary Gaus as the third of five children. Jim attended St. Bonaventure University (class of 1985) on a 4-year Army ROTC scholarship, earning him a commission in the United States Army.

Upon graduating, Jim began his Army career and was chosen to attend flight training. He was assigned to an Air Cavalry Squadron and his first deployment was flying Hueys in Honduras and El Salvador in support of an expeditionary Task Force responsible for delivering supplies and humanitarian aid. Jim then flew Scout helicopters in South Korea doing non-combat surveillance missions. He went on to fly counter drug and intelligence gathering missions throughout Central and South America as commander of a fixed wing unit. Jim left the Army in 1997 having achieved the rank of Major and moved to Virginia to work as a civilian contractor flying Lear jets all over the world.

In 2000, Jim was hired by Delta Airlines and began his 23-year career as a commercial pilot. His career was interrupted in 2002 when he was furloughed due to 9/11. Seizing this opportunity, his adventurous spirit led him to explore the world. He traveled with a friend to Russia, then spent several months surfing and giving eco tours in Costa Rica. He backpacked through Europe, and went back bowl hiking and skiing in the Canadian Rockies. He learned to

mountain climb and summited Island Peak (Imja Tse) in Nepal as well as K2 base camp.

In 2003, Jim returned home and began flying for the governor of Oklahoma. A year later, he was reactivated by the Army for the Second Gulf War and did airfield logistics in Kuwait.

Jim was recalled by Delta in 2005 and moved to Georgia where he met his wife, Mary. They fit together like a hand in a glove. After a lifetime of adventure, he was finally “home”. His son, Josh, was born in 2007 and over the years, the two could be found on Cub Scout outings, taking side trips, playing tennis, and more recently golf. Jim helped Josh build prototypes for his Eagle Scout project and sought to make Josh self-sufficient in all aspects of his life. When asked what his favorite layover was, Jim’s answer was always “Roswell, Georgia”. His interests were endless: golf, woodworking, gardening, tennis, war history, grilling or whatever his family was doing. There wasn’t anything Jim couldn’t build or fix, and whatever he attempted, he did expertly.

Jim put the greater good above himself. He listened more than he spoke and was always upbeat and easy to be around. His calm, humble, authentic nature won him many friends and he counted a day with his family or a beer with a friend as a good day. His faith was quiet yet unshakable, and he thanked God aloud each day for his many blessings.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary, and son, Josh; mother Mary Gaus; siblings Joe Gaus, John Gaus (Jennifer), Julie Welch (Dan), Jeff Gaus (Katie); along with sibling in-laws: Joe Rutte (Jan), John Rutte (Franziska), Kathleen Schoenblum (Joel), Ann Stanek (Mike), and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass celebrating Jim’s remarkable life will be held on Tuesday,

January 2, 2024 at 10:30am at St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church in Roswell, GA with a luncheon reception to follow. The mass will be live streamed and available for playback at this link:

<https://youtube.com/live/fF7RsvDZ99k?feature=share>

If you wish to remember Jim, you might consider a donation to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, Stronghold Rescue and Relief, or a veterans' organization of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

JAN 2. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church  
11330 Woodstock Road  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.*



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January 01, 2024 at 01:42 PM



“ *Jim was an aviator, mentor, NH classmate and friend.*

*He was dedicated to helping fellow pilots through his ALPA work and mentoring F.O.'s in the cockpit.*

*He left this world way too early.....*

*Jay Bradshaw*

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**Jay Bradshaw** - January 01, 2024 at 08:01 AM

BB

“ Jim and I flew together a number of times on the MD-88 at Delta. Jim was always one of those guys that would bring a smile to my face when I saw his name on my schedule. You knew it would be a great trip with professional support and good conversation.

We had a bomb scare flying into Raleigh-Durham and Jim's calm professionalism played a huge part in the favorable outcome and evacuation on the ramp.

Rest in peace, Jim. Thank you for setting a great example and leaving a positive mark on me.

*Bill Botella*

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**Bill Botella** - December 31, 2023 at 04:18 PM

RP

“ Jim's life was the epitome of that of a servant/leader. He was always there to provide a word of encouragement, a hand to build or fix just about anything and the wit and mindset to challenge those around him to be a better person. He loved his God, Faith, family and friends. He reminded me one time that he was one of my oldest friends; and he was right. I, along with many others, will miss him dearly.

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**Reggie Pate** - December 30, 2023 at 10:30 AM

CG

“ Chris and Katy Giles purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.



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**Chris and Katy Giles** - December 28, 2023 at 01:31 PM

CG

“ Chris and Katy Giles planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Richard Gaus.

Chris and Katy Giles - December 28, 2023 at 01:31 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.



December 27, 2023 at 11:35 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.



December 26, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.



December 25, 2023 at 01:58 PM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.*



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December 20, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Jim or Crash-as he was known at St. Bonaventure- and I were roommates for 2 years in college. We met as freshmen in 1981 and became fast friends. That friendship has continued on for the past 40 plus years. Once you meet someone like Crash- he changes your life for the better - I know he did mine. His sense of humor and crazy antics brought us together but his depth of who he was- always kept us together. I'm so blessed Crash was in my life and will always be in my life- just in a different way now. Mary and Josh- we always will have that connection of James (Crash) Gaus being the light for us in our lives.*

*-Peace and all good,  
-Mike and Carla Swick*

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**Michael Swick** - December 19, 2023 at 06:17 PM



“ *Curt M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Richard Gaus.*

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**Curt M.** - December 19, 2023 at 10:54 AM

TL

“ Jimmy was a good friend and neighbor I grew up with. We had many games we played in the streets together in front of his house or mine with his brother and my brothers. We played pop Warner football and basketball together didn't matter rain, Shiney or snow we always had games to play. Jimmy is with his dad and Jeff talking about old times. MERRY CHRISTMAS Jimmy and Jeff you will be missed.  
GOD BLESS

Todd LaVere - December 19, 2023 at 05:29 AM

YM

“ Sorry to hear Jim's passing, prayers for his family that were friends for many years. Jim was our son Jeffery best friend, played together got in trouble by throwing snowballs at buses, They went through st. Patrick's school and graduated from I H C high school . Jeff passed at age 49 Jim flew home to be with him. When he came home we always had a visitor come to see us. He was a great guy! Fly high my friend! Yuvon and Phil Marra



yuvon marra - December 17, 2023 at 02:48 PM

JP

“ Wow, I'm so sad to hear the passing of Jim. I went to IHC with Jim and know the whole beautiful family well. Jim was an amazing person for sure. He treated people with respect and was a pleasure to be around as a classmate, teammate and friend. My condolences to his family and may he rest in peace 🙏🕊️  
John and Melissa Puccia

john puccia - December 16, 2023 at 05:31 PM

TR

“ We will always remember Jim's friendly smile. He was a wonderful neighbor and friend, and we will cherish the memories of many fun evenings spent together eating, laughing and talking into the night. He was also a talented woodworker who built many beautiful pieces of furniture for his family. We will miss our friend dearly.

Tim and Beth Ramsey - December 15, 2023 at 03:49 PM

TR

“ Tim and Beth Ramsey purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.



Tim and Beth Ramsey - December 15, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.



December 15, 2023 at 10:24 AM

LJ

“ Love, Ray & Jerry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Richard Gaus.

Love, Ray & Jerry - December 15, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James Richard Gaus.*



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December 14, 2023 at 08:28 PM



“ *Lori Ward planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. James Richard Gaus.*

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**Lori Ward** - December 14, 2023 at 08:28 PM