



## James Richard 'Jim' Mills

November 16, 1948 - May 28, 2023

James Richard 'Jim' Mills, age 74, of Pinson, Tennessee, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Jim was born November 16, 1948, in Forrest City, and was the son of Ms. Jane E. Lyon Mills. After graduating from Forrest City High School in 1966, Jim attended junior college and played baseball. In 1968, Jim met and married his lifelong partner, Anita Sue 'Susie' King Mills. In 1969, Jim enlisted in the Air Force, which began the adventure that would pave the way for the rest of his life. During his thirty-two years of his military career, he earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee and an M.S. in Engineering Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He toured the world, living in Spain, Italy, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, Colorado, North Dakota, Ohio, Nebraska, Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee. His four children, Kelly, James Jr., Jeanie and Michael, his wife, Susie, and numerous family pets took the journey with him. He retired from the Air Force in 2001, but continued to work until 2019 when he fully retired.

Jim enjoyed playing softball and golf, traveling, and spending time with loved ones. He spent most of his retired years playing golf, reading the news, and spoiling his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jim is survived by his wife, Susie King Mills, his children; Kelly Awdakimow,

James Jr., Jeanie M. Duncan Zelasko, and husband, Kevin, and Michael Mills, one sister, Beth Cooney, his grandchildren; Jessica Smith, and husband, Aaron, Michael Awdakimow, Brian Awdakimow, Ashley Hudson, and husband, Adam, Aubrey O'Neal, and wife, Jessica, Kylie Mills, Lily Mills, Keith Zelasko, Nathan Zelasko, and Logan Zelasko, and great-grandchildren; Maximus Smith, Preston O'Neal, Simon Hudson, and Kennedy Hudson.

Services for Lt. Col. James Mills will be held at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel, 2:00 P.M., Monday, June 5, 2023, with burial in Forrest Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday, 1:00 P.M., until the time of the service. Stevens Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may log on to [stevensfuneralhome.net](http://stevensfuneralhome.net) for the online registry.

# Cemetery Details

## Forrest Park

Hwy 1 South  
Forrest City, AR

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

JUN 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

## Interment

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JUN 5 (CT)

Forrest Park  
Hwy 1 South  
2605 S. Washington Street  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-8790

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.*



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June 05, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.

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June 05, 2023 at 08:10 AM



“ *Jim Mills was a loyal friend of nearly 40 years. We were stationed together in the US Air Force four times, at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; Offutt AFB, NE; Peterson AFB, CO; and HQ Air Force Space Command, Colorado Springs. He was a mentor as well as a friend, setting the example as a true servant leader. He would never ask anyone to do anything that he wouldn't do himself. His positive attitude and cheerful disposition made every day fun. I will never forget the day Jim called to tell me I had been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. We worked hard together and played alot of golf together. Carol and I will miss him terribly.*

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**Steven Ditmer** - June 04, 2023 at 09:46 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.*



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June 03, 2023 at 05:22 PM



“ *Jim was truly one of the 'good guys'. He was a mentor to me during my time at J&J and was always just a phone call away when I needed anything. He will be missed! Prayers to you all as you say goodbye to a fine man.*

*Julie Meinhardt*

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**Julie Meinhardt** - June 02, 2023 at 08:19 PM



“ *I served in the US Air Force with Jim Mills and was fortunate to be assigned with him four times. First at Wright-Patterson AFB OH in 1985 where we were both AFIT students working on our Masters Degrees. Second, at HQ SAC, Offutt AFB NE, 1986 -1989. Third, he was my commander and supervisor in the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron at Peterson AFB CO from 1998 to 1999. Finally, we served together on the staff at HQ Air Force Space Command from 1999 until his retirement in 2001. We have stayed in-touch ever since and I am truly saddened at his passing. Jim was a loyal and valued friend. He exemplified the concept of Servant Leadership, always maintaining a positive attitude, a cool head, and a ready smile. His ready sense of humor will be missed by everyone who knew him.*

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**Steven Ditmer, Lt Col, USAF (ret)** - June 02, 2023 at 06:17 PM

JC

“ Jeff Besse and Jessica Clayton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.

Jeff Besse and Jessica Clayton - June 02, 2023 at 04:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.



June 02, 2023 at 04:32 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.



June 02, 2023 at 01:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.

June 02, 2023 at 12:42 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.*



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June 02, 2023 at 12:42 PM



“ *Jim was a best friend to me , but also to just about anyone who was fortunate enough to know him. He was a role model in every way and I'll forever treasure my precious memories of the many great times we had together. He leaves a hole in my heart that can never be filled. Condolences to his loving family in this time of grief and loss; prayers that his precious soul is now safely in the arms of Our Savior.*

*- Bob Workman  
Venice FL*

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**Bob Workman** - June 02, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ *Jim Mills taught me how to fly on the Strategic Air Command LOOKING GLASS aircraft, do nuclear fall-out assessment, and command/control Civil Engineering forces to fight the BIG WAR. I worked again with Jim at the USAF Academy, when he was the Program Manager for J&J Facilities. Jim was a life long friend, and CE colleague. He taught me a lot, and I will be forever thankful to him. May God bless Jim Mills, and may his memory be eternal. May God bless Jim's family and friends. He passed way too young; the world has lost a great man. I miss you Buddy.*

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**Jim Mitnik** - June 02, 2023 at 09:01 AM

MM

“ Jim was my Project Manager (supervisor) with J&J Maintenance at the US Air Force Academy circa 2006/7. What a great boss and friend. He truly cared for all of his workers and consistently kept calm and lighthearted, even in stressful situations. He had our backs — always. Jim, thanks for leading by example — and for all the memories.

Mark “Mo” Malone

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Mark “Mo” Malone - May 31, 2023 at 10:58 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.



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May 31, 2023 at 10:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.

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May 31, 2023 at 10:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.

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May 31, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.*



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May 31, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.

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May 31, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of James Richard 'Jim' Mills.*



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May 31, 2023 at 03:24 PM