



## James William Criswell

April 29, 1954 - November 22, 2016

Jim Criswell was born on April 29, 1954 to Laura and Maj. Billy Criswell, USAF, in San Benito, Texas. Since his father was military, the family lived in various locations until Maj. Criswell retired in 1968. They then returned to their roots in Limestone County, Texas, and began a cattle ranch.

Jim attended Groesbeck High School, worked the ranch, and began to pursue music seriously. He graduated high school and, although he had a very high draft number, enlisted in the USAF in 1972 during the Vietnam War and served as an Electronic Computer Systems Repairman. He served stateside and also served in the Drum and Bugle Corp at Keesler AFB. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1974 and stayed in the Denver area where he continued to pursue music.

He moved to Rosenberg in the early 80s at his father's suggestion, began work in the oil fields, and continued to play guitar. His skill continued to progress and he played with many bands. He became a much respected musician playing in bands that opened for many national acts, including The Guess Who, The Marshall Tucker Band, Molly Hatchet, Mickey Gilley, Clint Black, and Tim McGraw. He also returned to school, earned an Associate Degree in Computer Technology with a 4.0 GPA, and began working in the computer field. His son, William, was born in 1987, followed by his daughter, Rebecca, in 1990.

Jim continued working and playing, forming life-long friendships. In 1999, he and Jill met and later married in 2000. They moved to San Antonio and lived

there for five years, but returned to Houston on 2005 where they both worked for CHRISTUS Health. Not long thereafter, Jim realized his dream and was offered a position in BJ Thomas's former band, The Triumphs. Being a member of this band brought him so much joy and he was very proud to be a part of it all.

In 2012, Jim went to work at UT Health which he described as the best job he ever had. He continued to stay very active in music and play with The Triumphs. He also became active with Jill in animal rescue and advocacy and spent a lot of time caring for their pets that meant the world to them. They found tremendous joy in helping and spending time with them and it enriched their lives greatly.

Jim was so humble that many people who did not have the pleasure of seeing him play guitar never knew how accomplished he was in music and in all areas of life. He was not afraid to tackle anything and could fix anything. He was a man with a heart of gold, who showed kindness to everyone he encountered, whether a life-long friend or a homeless person or pet in need of help. Friendship meant everything to him and he knew how to be a good friend. He would drop everything to help anyone and never failed to show people how much he cared. His happiness and enthusiasm for life were contagious and people were drawn to him because of it. There will never be another person like Jim.

Jim is survived by his wife, Jill, his mother, Laura Waller, his son, William, daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Jason Stroup, sister and brother-in-law, Martha and David Sanders, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Andy and Vicki Parker, sister-in-law, Patti Sherrod, grandchildren, Mason Criswell, Eli Wiginton, Noah Wiginton, and Hannah Stroup, in addition to countless other beloved friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Maj. Billy Criswell, USAF, Ret., and his step-father, Lloyd Waller.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 2, 4pm-8pm, at Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Chapel, 3900 BF Terry Blvd, Rosenberg, TX 77471. The funeral

service will be held on Saturday, December 3, at 2pm, at the same location. The graveside service will be at 1pm Monday, December 5, at Criswell Cemetery in Falls County, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family has started a fund in Jim's name, which will be used to care for pets in need: <https://www.youcaring.com/jimcriswellmemorial-703031>

# Tribute Wall

DD

“WAY WAY too soon to go, but as is sang, "if there's a rock n roll Heaven, you know they've got a helluva band...." All of us in the TRIUMPHS are incredibly fortunate to have shared the stage, and enjoyed the wonderful friendship and camaraderie, with such a gifted and talented and caring person, as Jim. RIP, JimBob.

*Don Drachenberg*

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**Don Drachenberg** - December 19, 2016 at 03:46 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of Jim. I worked with him at USFHP and he was one of the kindest people I've ever worked with. He always had a smile on his face and was always willing to help me. He will be missed. RIP Jim

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**Johnna Blount** - December 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of Jim. I worked with him at USFHP and he was one of the kindest people I've ever worked with. He always had a smile on his face and was always willing to help me. He will be missed. RIP Jim

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**Johnna Blount** - December 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you, Jill - and all your family. May God bless and keep you close to Him at this time and always.

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**Ann Duplechain** - December 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *It was an honor to know you as a friend and as a musician with a gift. You will be missed greatly. My prayers are with your family.*  
*MJ Harrison*

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**Mary Jane Harrison** - December 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Jim's wife and family during this difficult time. I didn't know Jim met him once, but I met Jill when we both worked at Methodist and instantly hit it off. I ended up moving to SC many years ago, and we don't talk as often as we should, but I consider her one of my dearest friends and I was absolutely devastated to hear of Jim's passing. I wish I could be there for you Jill...love and miss you...take care of yourself and I'll talk to you when you're up to it...LOVE,*

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**Denise Kessler** - December 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Jim will be missed dearly! and remembered in my mind as a gentle and kind soul, who never forgets names and faces. He was/is loved.*  
*Marsha*

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**Marsha Davis** - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *may you rest in peace my friend*

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**abel garcia** - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ We are never ready to let our loved ones go when God calls them home. I worked with Jim at Christus Healthcare, for a good many years, and he was so helpful in the IT dept. He was a great co-worker , and I know everyone will miss him so . He brought his Guitar, on special occasions, and entertained us. Prayers for the family.

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**Brenda Pritchett** - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ I will miss you Jim.. Your kind heart and amazing talent on the guitar was always inspiring to me....RIP..I know you'll keep playing and sharing your gift in Heaven..Hugs... You are missed..xxooDuree a huge fan-friend

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**Duree lee Trautwein** - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Jim,a good friend will be surely missed. Prayers for the family, I know they need them.

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**Jimmy Vest** - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I express my sincere sympathy to family of Mr. Jim. I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. We worked together at RBJ and I can honestly say that he was a very sweet man and will truly be missed. Most of us here knew that he adored his wife, kids, and couldn't wait to spend time with his grandkids, and of course, rock out with his band. Mr. Jim was very kind, always smiling, and I'm glad I had the chance to meet one of God's most precious angels. He will forever be missed and remembered in our hearts.

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**Montoya Truss** - December 01, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Jim will be missed but his UT Health family will never forget him. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

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**Abe Guajardo** - November 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ "Therefore we are always full of courage, and we know that as long as we are alive here on earth we are absent from the Lord for we live by faith, not by sight. Thus we are full of courage and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

*I pray that The Heavenly Father wraps you in his divine love and comfort during this time of grieving. Your CHRISTUS Family loves you and will be here ALWAYS to support you.*

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**Kevin** - November 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ I wanted to send my deepest condolences to you and your family during this time. May the Lord bless you all with peace and comfort as you grieve the loss of Jim. Many thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!!!

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**Lori Johnson** - November 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ My deepest condolences. Although I only recently met him, Jim made an instant impression with his kindness and warmth. He will truly be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones during this difficult time.

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**Sevahn Carril** - November 30, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I can't think of a time when Jim and I were together that he didn't have a smile on his face, or let out one of his huge laughs. Jim was a special person to so many. To label him a "co-worker" is just not enough, because he was so much more; he was truly a friend. I had the occasion to attend a couple of after work get-togethers with him, and he always had a smile and a great story to tell. He was a great person and an incredible friend. I will miss him greatly, and will never forget him.

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**Charles Massey** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

IG

“ I never really formally met Jim. I worked with his wife Jill for years. She talked about him constantly. You could tell the love she had in her voice. She shared many pictures. My condolences to Jill and her family and Jim's family. I know personally what Jill is going through right now. My wife passed away on October 7th. My prayers are with them all.

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**Irl Green** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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**Charles Massey** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CX

“ Jim was an extraordinary man and a wonderful person. I will always remember Jim's kindness, compassion, and bright personality. He will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

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**Chris Xin** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HZ

“ Jim was my genuine Friend and also my musical BandMate for many years. I will forever cherish the wonderful memories, the fun, the challenges and the LOVE we shared throughout GoodTimes too many to count. Heaven just added another GREAT guitarist to its band. RIP, "Jimma." My heart is very heavy with our earthly loss, but we WILL share heavenly stages again, My Brother!!!

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**Herb Zieschang** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I only knew Jim for a short time, but he was a friendly, humorous and helpful man to be around. He will be missed dearly.

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**Jose Rodriguez** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ It was such a pleasure working with Jim at UTHHealth. Although I did not see him often due to his work location, we did have contact at luncheons and other meetings. He was always so nice and helpful and I enjoyed talking to him when given the chance. I'm sorry for your loss and sorry that I will be unable to attend his service. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

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**Amy Jones** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Jim was like a big brother to me. Never a harsh word and always a hug when I saw him. Jill, William and Rebecca, my heart breaks for you. Your husband and father was truly loved by a lot of people. I will keep him alive with the memories of Sunday Texans games and deciding on what to fix for the Super Bowl. I love you guys and will truly miss Jim.

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**Lynn Bell** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

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**Charles Massey** - November 29, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ It's hard to understand why people are taken from us, but find comfort in knowing you were a special part of a well-lived life. Thoughts and prayers to the Criswell family

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**Jim & Marilyn Hope** - November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Jim,  
I only knew you from the Keesler Blue Knights Drum & Bugle Corps FB page, but I enjoyed your stories and photos.  
While I served about 10 years after you did you were a Brother In Arms.  
My thoughts and prayers of comfort going out to your family and friends.  
Kevin

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**Kevin Ott, CMSgt, USAF retired** - November 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jim will truly be missed but not forgotten.

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**Chiquita Ardoin** - November 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *You will be missed dearly my friend*

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**Ben Bell** - November 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Thoughts and Prayers to the Criswell Family. Jim will be missed.*

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**Charles Seiler** - November 23, 2016 at 12:00 AM