



James Thomas Chester, Jr.

June 22, 1941 - May 26, 2015

James "Tom" Thomas Chester, Jr., 73, of Savannah, passed away Tuesday, May 26, 2015 in Savannah, TX. He was born June 22, 1941 in North Tonawanda, NY to James and Olga (Woryk) Chester, Sr. Tom married Carol Greene on April 20, 1969 at Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA. Tom grew up in North Tonawanda, NY where he learned to love the game of basketball. Not only was he a star player at North Tonawanda High School, but he also went on to play for the Golden Griffs at Canisius College where he earned a BA degree in English (and later an MBA from Xavier University). One of his proudest moments was being admitted into the Canisius Hall of Fame for basketball, baseball and cross country. He excelled in a career in the United States Army where he served in Vietnam, graduated from the Naval War College, and led as Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division in W. Germany. Eventually he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years of service. He is survived by his wife Carol of Savannah, TX; son, James "Jim" T. Chester, III and wife Courtney (Gregory) of Atlanta, GA; daughter, Lisa Chester Rubio of Frisco, TX; four grandchildren, Ava Rubio, Alex Rubio, Reese Chester, James "J.T." T. Chester, IV; cousin, Bill Woryk and wife Millie of Troy, OH. He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service will be held at 4:00PM, Friday, May 29, 2015 at Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey, TX with Pastor Larry Evans officiating. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com. Services are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center, Aubrey, TX.

To send a flower arrangement to the family of James Thomas Chester, Jr., please [click here](#) to visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

ES

“ To Tom's family, The last time I met Tom was in 1967 in Vietnam. Previous to that I knew Tom when we students at Canisius and when I worked for the athletic department and Tom was one of our star basketball players. A great guy, a great basketball player, and a great soldier. My deepest condolences.

Ed Skerrett - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Sorry for your loss. Remember everyone is here for you in Isabella Village. My prayers go out to your family and this time.

Jan Gholston - June 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ So sorry to see that Tom passed. He was a great athlete at Canisius and returned in 1970 to coach the freshman basketball and varsity baseball teams. I was a senior lefty pitcher and he remembered me when we met in Dallas in 1996 during Caniaius's game in the NCAA tournament. He was a gracious, dignified man and a great alum.
Tom Smith

Tom Smith - May 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ God's speed Tom.

Jim Oliverio - May 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *May the love and many memories you have for your dear husband, father and grandfather bring each of you tremendous joy and comfort this day and each day ahead of you. Sincerely, Melissa Alvis*

May 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Carol, Lisa, Jim -The world will be a bit more bleak without Tom - our sympathy to you. As He & I spent our earliest years growing up together in "The Old House", many of my fondest memories are of Him, his Mother, my Aunt Olga, and Uncle Walter. He is now in the Best of Company. He, and all of you, are in our Prayers.*

Bill & Millie Woryk - May 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *On behalf of the entire Canisius athletic department and the Golden Griffin men's basketball program, we express our deepest sympathies to the Chester family for your loss. Once a Griff Always a Griff.*

May 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Your Family is in my thoughts and prayers today.*

Liz DeLorge - May 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Lisa and family, my sympathy to you all. Tom is in a better place with the Lord. We are left to grieve on earth but may the Lord comfort you and be very near to you all in the coming days. My prayers are for you Lisa and your family.*

Julie Larson - May 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ My sympathy to Carol, Jim, Lisa and their families. We reconnected in Atlanta 23 years ago - hadn't seen him since he was one of my coaches at Canisius. He loved his family, his country and the Griffs! We lost a really good one. Prayers to you Carol and your family.

Don Hurlburt - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ My sympathy to the Chester family. I grew up with Tom, I lived on 16th Avenue and he lived on 17th Avenue. Had a lot of fun together. We Ukrainian's stick together! He had a wonderful mother, have fond memories.

Nancy Wasieczko-Lorenc - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ My deepest condolences to Toms family. He was good friend & team mate at the N. Ton. Boys Club & NTHS.

Peter Miano - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Carol, Joan and I are sorry for your loss. Tom was the best at connecting with people. If you knew Tom 20 years previously and he was in your area, He would contact you to renew the friendship. We really enjoyed our association with both of you in Atlanta. I will never forget how nice he was.

Donald Borzilleri - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Condolences to Jim and Courtney and the entire Chester family - you are in our prayers.

David Corbett - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Jim, We are so sorry for your loss. Please tell your Mother and sister that we have warm memories of your Father from the wedding, and are praying for God to comfort you and ease your sorrow.

Susan Schneider - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ To cousin Tom Chester family you have all my family deepest sympathy. You will be remembered in our prayers

Jennifer Elbers - May 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Tom was a great friend and a dedicated soldier. He was loyal to a fault to me and to Always Ahead Alpha as we transformed a rag tag group into a competent and award winning combat unit in Germany, circa mid-1960's. He now gets to stand reveille with the boss. He will be missed.

Dee Cuttell - May 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM