

Lt. Gen. James S. Cassity



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June 17, 1935 - Dec. 30, 2008

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Retired Lt. Gen. James S. Cassity, resident of Fair Oaks Ranch, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008.

Gen Cassity was born June 17, 1935, to Juanita and Shelby and considered Gary, Texas, his hometown. He was a 1958 graduate of Texas A&M University and received a Master of Science degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1969. In addition, he completed the Air War College, the Defense Systems Management College and the advanced management program at Harvard.

Gen. Cassity received his commission through ROTC in 1958 and earned his pilot wings at Laredo AFB. He was a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours, including 180 combat hours in helicopters during Vietnam. In 1964 he was assigned to Air Force Special Operations at Howard AFB, Canal Zone. From 1970 to 1974 he worked in the F-15 Systems Program Office at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Gen. Cassity's communications and information career started in 1974 when he was assigned to Headquarters, Electronic Systems Division, Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts. He went on to lead a variety of C&I organizations including the Engineering Installation Center, served on the HQ USAFE staff as DCS for information systems, and the NORAD and Air Force Space Command DS for Communications.

In 1988, he was appointed Commander, Air Force Communications Command. His final military assignment was Director, Command Control and Communications System for the Joint Staff which supported National Command Authority and specified commands on operations. He retired from the Air Force July 1, 1991.

After his military retirement, Jim was vice president and general manager for C4 and Information Management Systems at BDM International and later TRW. He enjoyed working in the church, handing out Gideon Bibles and playing golf.

Jim was married to Patricia Ann Smith on July 3, 1959. He is survived by her and by his children, Marcus Andrew Cassity and Judith Lynn Fitz and husband, Jim, and two grandchildren, Eric and Elena. His mother, Lily Juanita Cassity also survives her son.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in

Boerne. A luncheon reception will follow. Burial with full military honors will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at 2:15 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to the Gideon's International, San Antonio North West Camp No. 4223.5, P.O. Box 681505, San Antonio, Texas, 78268-1505, or First United Methodist Church, 205 James St., Boerne, Texas, 78006. To leave a message or a tribute for the family, please visit www.vaughanfuneralhome.com and select the obituaries icon.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Vaughan's Funeral Home of Boerne