



James R. LeGros

August 23, 1932 - April 17, 2023

A Mass of Christian Burial for Lt Col James R. LeGros (Ret) will be held at on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Jennings, LA with Father Keith Pellerin, Dec. Frank Cormier & Dec. Art Bakeler officiating. A burial will follow with full Military Rites in Andrus Cove Cemetery.

A Gathering of Family and Friends will begin on Friday, April 21, 2023, at 5:00 PM with a Rosary recited at 6:00 PM with Dec. Art Bakeler officiating and will continue until 8:00 PM. The Funeral Home will reopen on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 11:00 AM and remain open for family and friends until the time to proceed to Church for Mass at 2:00 PM.

Jim was born August 23, 1932, in Mermentau, LA, to Oneal and Eliza (Henry) LeGros, the youngest of 10 children, where they lived on the family rice farm. Losing his mother to illness at the age of 11 and his father prior to graduation from high school, LeGros moved with his sister and brother-in-law Anthony and Lillian Egger to New York City. He graduated from Newtown High School in Queens, NY, before returning to his home state to attend Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, on an ROTC scholarship. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and was then commissioned as an officer to the US Air Force.

Depending on his locale, “Gutsy” or “Frenchy” as he was known, served his country honorably flying 3000+ hours as one of the first navigators in the F-101 to reach that milestone. From the Voodoo Surfers to the Happy Hooligans, his distinguished military career saw him participating in the William Tell aerial gunnery competition as a function of his training and skill set to defend the Continental United States. His skills as a Weapons School Officer were instrumental in the success of the North Dakota Air National Guard unit winning 3 years in a row. Upon retirement from the Air Force, LeGros moved his family from his last station in Fargo, ND, to Roanoke, LA, where he joined the security service for Citgo Petroleum. They later moved to Lake Charles and finally to Alamo Heights, TX in retirement.

LeGros met his sweetheart and love of his life, Sue Casey, in 1958 at a snow cone stand in Mermentau and they were married 1 year later in Goose Bay, Labrador. They started a family in Montana with the birth of their daughter, Brigitta, followed by the birth of daughters Jennifer and Deborah while stationed in Oxnard, CA. A son, James O’Neal LeGros was born in Fargo, ND, who’s name honors his father, Oneal LeGros and Jim’s brother McNeal who perished on the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor.

James lived his life honorably, respectfully, with grace, profound kindness, and an unwavering faith. He taught his children and grandchildren the understanding of true love and to embrace the relationships of those in their lives. He was 4th degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus which he served in for 74 years.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara Sue Casey LeGros, children Jennifer (Billy) Andrew, Deborah LeGros, and James LeGros as well as grandchildren William Jr. and Allison Andrew, Casey Andrew, Jackson LeGros, and Kylee Andrew. He leaves one great grandson, William “Trae” Andrew III.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Brigitta, his parents Oneal and Liza LeGros, as well as his 9 sibilings; Olive (Joe) Liechty, Hazel (Cornelius) Bienvenu, Laura (C.P.) Woods, Bessie (Verne) Alston, Lawrence (Melba) LeGros, Lillian (Anthony) Egger, Eula Rodrigue, McNeal LeGros, and Lucille (Don) Bailey.

In Lieu of Flowers the Family ask that donations be made in honor of James to St. Jude's or Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation.

To extend online condolences, please visit our website at www.matthewsandsfuneralhome.net

Arrangements have been entrusted to Matthews & Son Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Andrus Cove Cemetery

Andrus Cove Cemetery Rd
Jennings, LA 70546

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 21. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Matthews Funeral Home - JENNINGS
511 N. Cutting Avenue
Jennings, LA 70546
(337) 824-4420
jimmy@matthewsfh.com
<https://www.matthewsandsonfuneralhome.net/>

Rosary

APR 21. 6:00 PM (CT)

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511 N. Cutting Avenue
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Gathering of Family and Friends

APR **22**. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (CT)

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Mass of Christian Burial

APR **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church
710 North State St.
Jennings, LA 70546

Tribute Wall



“ 132 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



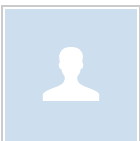
Matthews Funeral Home - April 21, 2023 at 01:40 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.*



April 21, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ *Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.*



April 20, 2023 at 06:52 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.



April 20, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Sue and family: Sending deepest sympathies at this sad time. The world has lost another great airman. Rest assured Jim left many wonderful memories among his many friends and co-workers at the ND Air National Guard. He contributed to the legend that is the "Happy Hoolligans"! Rest in peace Jim. Doug Warnecke, Pers. Officer.*

Dpug Warnecke - April 20, 2023 at 04:46 PM



Jimmy was a cousin and very good friend. Enjoyed the time I spent with him at Citgo Refinery until our retirement and at our LeGros Family reunions. My sympathy and condolences to Sue and their family. You will always be in my heart. My Jimmy's soul rest in peace in our heavenly Fathers presence.

Reggie LeGros - April 21, 2023 at 11:03 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy* was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.



April 20, 2023 at 03:53 PM

TL

“ Sue, Jennifer, Deborah, O’Neal we are sad to hear about Jim’s passing. I always enjoyed working with Jim at the Guard he was such a great guy. I will never forget the wonderful memories we have camping with your family on Pelican Lake. Wish we could be with your family at this sad time.

Tony & JoAnne Lund

Tony & JoAnne Lund - April 20, 2023 at 02:21 PM

CT

“ Sorry to hear about your loss Sue. Prayers for you and your family.
Charles Trahan

Charles Trahan - April 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM



“ *Lavender & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.*



April 20, 2023 at 07:28 AM



“ *Classic Fireside Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.*



April 19, 2023 at 07:51 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of James R. LeGros.*



April 19, 2023 at 02:12 PM



“ *Coldwell Banker Schmidt purchased the Healing Tears - Lavender and White for the family of James R. LeGros.*



Coldwell Banker Schmidt - April 19, 2023 at 01:06 PM



“ *Melanie, Brian, Joel, and Alison LeGros purchased the White Sympathy Baskets for the family of James R. LeGros.*



Melanie, Brian, Joel, and Alison LeGros - April 19, 2023 at 12:47 PM

ML

“ My deepest sympathy for your loss. Uncle Jimmy was the kindest and most thoughtful man. I will be forever grateful to him for being my daughter Alison’s godfather. When my husband Greg, his nephew, died, he sent cards, wrote letters, and even visited us to help fill the void of the loss of her father. He always treated our family with the utmost consideration and thoughtfulness. He was a role model of what God intended a father, husband, uncle, friend, patriot, and above all a man of God to be. We will miss him dearly. Hold on to all the wonderful memories and know that he will be with you in spirit always.

Melanie LeGros - April 19, 2023 at 12:33 PM

GM

“ Greg, Tina, Michael and Maggie purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of James R. LeGros.



Greg, Tina, Michael and Maggie - April 19, 2023 at 09:48 AM