



James Lee Bettendorf

October 25, 1945 - February 27, 2021

James Lee Bettendorf, 75, of Brooklyn Park, MN, formerly of St. Cloud, MN and Foley, MN, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family, on 2/27/2021. Jim was diagnosed with AML Leukemia in December 2020. Jim grew up in Foley, MN, received his bachelor's degree from St. John's University, and his Master's degree from SCSU. Jim taught math at North Jr High School in St. Cloud, MN until his retirement in 2001. Jim will be remembered as a wonderful partner, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, and friend. He loved movies and books, and traveled widely throughout the United States. After teaching Math for 34 years, Jim decided to more fully pursue his passion for writing poetry in retirement. Along with several poems published in various books, he self published a book in collaboration with his daughter, Suzanne, who contributed illustration, in honor of his granddaughter, Kayleen. The yearly travels with Patricia were a highlight of his retirement. The annual weekend up north with children and grandchildren will be dearly missed. Jim passed many hours cheering on his grandkids at events in stadiums, arenas, and theaters around the state. His ability to finish a NYT crossword puzzle while watching a Twins game was a special talent. Jim was an active volunteer for causes near and dear to his heart. He enjoyed as many visits as he could with friends and family. Spending time with the people he loved was a great joy to him. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, John and Helen (Gondeck), brother John Jr., nephew Patrick Ryan, and granddaughter Kayleen Larson. Jim is survived by his partner Patricia Brain; daughter Sarah

Larson (Kelly), of Clearwater, MN, grandchildren Jon Frikken (Jessie), Alex (fiancée Kelsey), and Meghan; daughter Suzanne Bettendorf, of Minneapolis, MN; daughter Monica Bettendorf Hartberg (Ben), of St. Paul, MN, grandchildren Abby and Carter. Siblings: Kathy Ryan (Butch) of Amery, WI; Margaret Morris (Terry) of Park Rapids, MN; Gerald Bettendorf (Linda) of Foley, MN; Gerard Bettendorf of Foley, MN; Mary Zlock (Dave), of Lakeville, MN; Charles Bettendorf (Christine) of North Branch, MN; Sister-in-law Mary Lou Thomas; and many nieces and nephews. The family wishes to thank the numerous friends and family that sent cards and messages to surround him with love in his final days and the many people who cared for Jim during his illness, especially the medical teams and hospice staff with Fairview University Hospital. There will be a celebration of life at a later date as covid restrictions are lifted. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Beat AML project at Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/jim-bettendorf-memorial

Tribute Wall

DB

“ James/Jamie/Jim and I probably met for the first time in the St. Cloud Hospital when he showed up on October 25, 1945 after my arrival 5 days earlier on the 20th. We proceeded to spend the next 17 or so years together in school activities, numerous family gatherings, watching movies together at our family owned theater, serving Mass together until being separated for "getting the giggles...regularly" when Jamie couldn't hit the right keys for the bells, touch football games in Youso's backyard and Thanksgiving Barf Bowl football games, etc., etc. I could go on and on. Growing up so closely together and being related as first cousins, with my Father and his being brothers, it was almost in some sense like he was more of a brother than cousin. I wish we had been able to spend more time together in our later years. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case, and I regret it. There's a lesson there for many of us.

Dick Bettendorf

Dick Bettendorf - March 08, 2021 at 07:08 PM

PK

“ Jim Bettendorf was my supervising teacher when I student taught. I learned so much from him. He was a great teacher and a good person to work with. I still use his advise on prioritizing tasks into the things I have to do, the things I want to do, and the things I should do. And should dos always come last.

Peggy Krull-Bordewick

Peggy Krull-Bordewick - March 07, 2021 at 02:59 PM

PM

“ Jim was a great role model for his students. He was a great colleague for all of us in the profession. One of my best memories of Jim was his smile when he was able to meet, shake hands and get the autograph of Hall of Famer Paul Molitor when he visited our school. My thoughts and prayers are with all that are grieving.

PATRICK MULLEN - March 07, 2021 at 09:55 AM

DE

“ Jim wasn't very talented man and writer as well as teacher and friend. His poetry will live on as well as his memory. Condolences to his children. I am joyed working with him in our local writer as a group that lasted for several years. Del Brobst

Del - March 06, 2021 at 06:28 PM

WB

“ Jim's gentle smile, style, and friendship to all capture the man. I am glad for his good life and his work in teaching leaves the greatest possible legacy. Blessings to all who grieve.

Warren Bradbury - March 06, 2021 at 07:44 AM

BB

“*Jamie was a cool cousin that I always looked up to. I never really appreciated him, though, until I worked with him. I learned what a talented guy he was and how interesting he was as a person. I team taught with Jim in his classroom for years and worked with him as a team member for many more. Few people had the privilege of seeing him in the act of teaching as much as I did. It amazed me time and again the skill he had in the act of passing on information to middle level students and helping them to understand and interpret that information. He was able to reach students in ways that most would never think of through his creative treatment of his subject matter: mathematics, of all things! He specialized and was a pioneer in the educating of the least likely to want to be educated. He used humor and compassion with an amazing amount of patience in his classroom. We should all be so lucky to have had a teacher of his caliber.*”

Bill Bettendorf - March 05, 2021 at 12:26 AM

SL

“*21 files added to the album Photos*”



Sarah Larson - March 04, 2021 at 06:31 PM

LH

“ *LeRoy Sorenson and Carla Hagen purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of James Lee Bettendorf.*



LeRoy Sorenson and Carla Hagen - March 04, 2021 at 03:30 PM