



James "Jim" Garrett

August 25, 1943 - September 1, 2022

James "Jim" Garrett passed away on September 1, 2022 from complications of a brain tumor, five years after surgery.

Born in Santa Rosa, California on August 25, 1943, he just celebrated his 79th birthday. His parents were Amos and Inez Pettibone Garrett. His family moved to Benicia just before he entered the school system. He attended Kindergarten on East 5th and N Streets while his family lived in government housing on the original Larkin Drive. Then he went to Highlands School for first through fifth grade. He completed his education at Benicia Grammar School and Benicia High School (Class of 1961 – the last class to attend the old school). While at the high school he excelled in the sports of football, baseball and track. He was a member of championship football teams in 1959 and 1960 and the championship baseball team in 1961. He was editor of the high school newspaper, The Prowling Panther, his senior year. It was in that class that he met his future wife, Roberta Marchioni. During and after high school he worked at several of the local service stations and did odd jobs. In 1963 he joined the Navy. He was very proud of the fact that he was Honor Man of his Company in recruit training. He spent over three years of his four-year enlistment on sea duty, most of which was in the Philippines and Vietnam areas. After his honorable discharge, he and Roberta were married in St. Dominic's Church. They were married over 55 years and have one son, Jim Jr. (Bonnie) and a grandson, Sean, of Bend, OR.

He attended Vallejo J.C. (now Solano College) for two years while working at

the same time. He and his family then moved to San Francisco. He attended San Francisco State where he received a degree with a major in Physical Education and a minor in History. After a final year of study, he earned his teaching credential. He and his wife and son then moved back to Benicia. He spent one year working as a warehouseman for Ace Hardware in the Industrial Park before being hired by the Benicia Unified School District. He began his career at the Continuation High School (later known as Liberty High) and after one semester moved over to Benicia High School. He taught in the Social Science Department for 27 years, covering required classes and electives. He was most proud of getting two of his own classes, Philosophy and Military History, accredited in the U.C. System. He said that later in his career he realized he taught "Philosophy of Life" in all his classes and emphasized the Socratic method before it became popular. He coached football and softball but was best known for developing the girls' basketball program at the high school. He not only coached basketball, but he supported the other sports as well, often going to out-of-town contests. He enjoyed seeing students from his classes do well outside of the classroom. He followed graduates who went on to college sports programs and attended games when possible.

After retiring in 2000, he realized a dream and became a published author. He ended up publishing four novels. He received numerous awards for his poetry and often said his works were read around the world. That was because he has several poems published in "Leatherneck, the Magazine of the Marines". He was also a volunteer at the Benicia Historical Museum and was known as the "multi-tasking" volunteer because he worked on anything the Museum needed. He enjoyed doing projects around his home as well. He and his wife, Roberta, did many home improvement projects which always cost more than expected and took longer than expected but they enjoyed working together none the less.

He is survived by his wife Roberta, son Jim, brother Robert Garrett and sister Patricia Garrett. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Newton and

sisters Jane “Juana” Roth and Mary Fish.

The family would like to thank the NorthBay Hospice Team for the kindness and care they showed Jim in his final months. Donations in his name may be sent to the Benicia Historical Museum, Collections Department, or to a charity of one’s choice.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, September 20th at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel. Funeral services including Military Honors will be held 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 21st at Northgate Christian Fellowship. Burial will be private at Benicia Cemetery.

Previous Events

Funeral Services

SEP **21**. 3:30 PM (PT)

Northgate Christian Fellowship
2201 Lake Herman Road
Benicia, CA 94510

Tribute Wall



“ James "Jim" Garrett

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ Just now becoming aware of Mr. Garrett's passing. I've always been proud to say that I'd been taught something in life by him. You will forever remain a pillar of confidence and strength in my memory.

J.Ozmer - November 04, 2022 at 11:53 AM



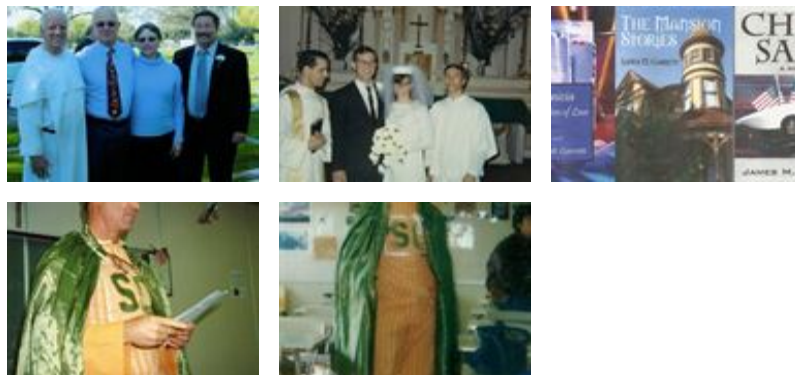
“ Jim Garrett family Prayers for extra strength to help you get thru this difficult time and in the days ahead adjusting to life without his physical presence, may your memories together help you thru each day. He will always be remembered Rest in peace Jim



Carol A King - September 18, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ 144 files added to the album Life Tributes



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - September 15, 2022 at 01:54 PM

SA

“ *My condolences for such a good teacher, kind & compassionate person. Your impact will be felt for many, many years.
Sincerely, Shryl Avril, Class of '76*

Shryl A. - September 14, 2022 at 06:54 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Garrett.*



September 13, 2022 at 04:26 PM

BP

“ *Jim was a personal friend and he will be very missed. One of the things Jim did was volunteer at the Benicia Historical Museum. The years of work he did had a lasting effect on the museum. Jim was a principled man who believed in doing a job right. He and Roberta together revamped the tool room at the museum, which took months of dedication. The result was you could find exactly what you wanted; every drawer was sorted and labeled! He and Roberta also inventoried the cabinets housing our collection. There are not too many around like Jim, it was wonderful knowing him. Love,
Beverly and Jim*



Beverly Phelan - September 12, 2022 at 03:50 PM

MS

“ To a fine teacher who touched to lives of many and was appreciated by all. May his memories provide you with daily smiles, even behind the tears you shed. Know that he is at peace in God's care.
Is.26:19; Ps.37:11,29

Mrs. Ann Spell - September 07, 2022 at 04:05 AM

TC

“ You are that Teacher for me. You are the one

Tony Ciarrocchi - September 05, 2022 at 10:16 AM

JS

“ Mr Garrett, Mrs Garrett and Jim- thank you for sharing your husband and father with all of us students at Benicia High School. We were blessed to have him as a teacher, he was my military history teacher and what a great one! I've seen over these 25 years since I sat in his class, how beloved he is and how many students have kept in touch with him in various ways. I am a teacher now, and actually many of his former students are today. We take with us not only lessons of history and a love of learning, but a desire to be a teacher that gives life to a classroom, a teacher that fosters confidence in their students' learning and growing process and builds relationships with students to show we care for them- just like Mr Garrett did for so many. While I am so very sorry that he has passed on to eternal paradise, I am comforted knowing that he lived a great life filled with love and that he has been made whole once more in eternal peace with Our Lord. He will no doubt be checking in on everyone and continuing to love and protect from his Heaven, as he once did as a soldier. God bless your family and know that you are in my family's prayers. -Jennie (Gray) Schaaf and family, BHS Class of 1994



Jennie Schaaf - September 03, 2022 at 11:04 PM

RC

“ My condolences to Roberta and the Garrett family. Jim was my history teacher in high school and he and Roberta were good friends of my parents for many years. I enjoyed visiting with the four of them on occasions when they would get together for lunch or dinner. They had all been friends since high school. My best wishes to Roberta and family as they move forward. Jim will be missed.

Randy Champion - September 03, 2022 at 01:05 PM

KT

“ My friend, you will be so missed; rest in peace Jimmy.

Karen Lee Tedford - September 03, 2022 at 12:19 PM

ME

“ Remembering the many hours shared proof-reading his work with Leeann and talking Benicia history and vibes. A trip back in time...which he relished. He and Roberta were one in mind when it was about Benicia! Their specialized Christmas cards were really enjoyed. His many friends will miss his quick wit and his fond remembrances of all things BHS. My sympathy to all his loved ones, and dear friends through the years.

Marie Earp

Marie Earp - September 03, 2022 at 10:53 AM