



James Thomas Owens

June 8, 1938 - April 17, 2022

James Thomas Owens, aged 83, of 1214 Owens Drive in Myrtle Beach, died Sunday, April 17, 2022, surrounded by his family. Mr. Owens was a native of Myrtle Beach, where he graduated from Myrtle Beach High School in 1956. He went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Davidson College in 1960 and a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1961. As an ROTC graduate, he served in the U.S. Army as an infantry company commander from 1961 to 1963, after which he joined International Business Machines (IBM) in Poughkeepsie, New York, as a computer programmer. After serving in various capacities around the world with the company, he retired to South Carolina in 2000 and later returned to his ancestral home in Myrtle Beach.

Jim was an active youth member in the First Baptist Church while in school in Myrtle Beach, and was active in many different congregations and other elements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Church of England as an adult. He was a member of Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church in Garden City, SC, since 2013. In the community, Jim was an elected member of the Board Of Education of Kingston, NY; a member of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas; and an organizing member of the Board of Directors of (Alzheimer's) Respite Care of Charleston, SC. In Horry County, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of United Way of Horry County, and Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a local service for

elderly shut-ins, where he also volunteered as a driver. He also stepped forward as a reader in Freedom Readers, a local service to promote literacy among disadvantaged children.

Jim was the son of the late John William Owens and the late Edith Elizabeth Bellamy of Myrtle Beach, and was the stepson of the late Wilson Don Owens. He was predeceased by a son, Philip Kevin Owens, and by his sister, Ada Evelyn Owens Hearl and her husband, Joseph Walter Hearl. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Kathryn Jean Case, of Akron, OH; a daughter, Elizabeth Owens van Hulst (Dr. Noe) of Paris, France; a son, Michael Christopher Owens (Dr. Traci Ardren) of Miami Springs, FL; and a son, Dr. Scott O. Rohrbach (Gail) of Greenbelt, MD.

The delight of his life was his eleven grandchildren, Ryan, Logan and Kelly Hunter; Morgan and Cyrus Owens; Alex and Rhys Rohrbach; Jessica and Nathan Schot; and Danny and Sol van Hulst. His extended family included two foster sons, Truman and Tai Troung, and their wives and children; plus several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church and will be live streamed on their web site at <https://shepherdofthesea.com/> at 2 PM on Wednesday, April 20. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either Neighbor-to-Neighbor of South Carolina, PO Box 3030, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577; United Way of Horry County, PO Box 50016, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579; or Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, 2637 Hwy. 17 Business South, Garden City, SC 29576.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Carolina Forest Chapel, is assisting the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **20**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran
2637 HWY 17 Business South
Garden City, SC 29576
(843) 651-7377

Tribute Wall



“ *Our sincere condolences for your loss. May ‘the God of all comfort’ be with family and friends at this time. Isaiah 41:10*

Kathryn - April 21, 2022 at 11:11 AM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of James Thomas Owens.

April 20, 2022 at 09:52 PM

“ Jim came to a Neighbor to Neighbor event hosted by Horry United Way, and while he and Kathy were wrapping up their day of service, we got into a fantastic discussion about the cosmos! The stars, the universe, and how his son was working on a telescope that would see deep into space (which was launched about 6 years later). After our initial meeting, I knew he would enjoy having conversations about how helping others can be done in a unique, exciting, and interesting way.

Jim loved the mission of Neighbor to Neighbor, and as a volunteer, he provided a friendly and joyous disposition to his riders. He helped to build a strong foundation for Neighbor to Neighbor having board meetings at Shepherd of Sea Lutheran Church, to taking a leadership role as board president and creating a space for us to strategize and grow our programming with the goal of providing an authentic engagement for people to help each other. And this was practiced and lived through Jim's service. And while I could go on to talk about Jim's tremendous impact on Neighbor to Neighbor through his business acumen, leadership skills, and perseverance to do acts of service with the community, I want to share that I am eternally grateful for the wisdom he shared with me.

From his humble beginnings fraught with struggle and his determination to keep moving forward to achieve his dreams, Jim and I talked at length about the construction of a life worth living. We shared a lot of experiences and found communion through our lessons, which I always found reassuring because his experiences taught him so much and I was able to learn glimpses of the vast knowledge he possessed. One of these glimpses is the deep love he had for his family and how each moment spent with them is a gift. Even the most frustrating moments when your toddler is driving you crazy is a gift. This message continues to inspire my daily functioning as I learn and grow and realize my influence on others is dependent upon gratitude and the outlook I choose to assume in the moment.

I cannot possibly express the appreciation I have for the gift of having known, talked with, and learned alongside Jim, but I know that I often think of Jim when I am faced with challenges. And this

*brings me comfort knowing he is there with me on this journey, and I am so thankful to have known him.
My sincere condolences,
Joe Kunkel*

Joe Kunkel - April 20, 2022 at 03:49 PM

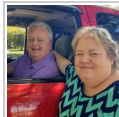
HC

“ *James went from the first grade to graduation in 1956 with us. The Myrtle Beach school system was quite small during that time period; therefore, all of us became close friends and did many activities together. James and I were Co-Captains of the Myrtle Beach Seahawks football team our senior year while Patty was the Head Cheerleader.*

We will greatly miss him!!!

Harold Capps and Patty Hart Capps

Harold and Patty Capps - April 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM



Never new Mr. Owens only hiis sister aunt Ada Hearl and her wonderful Children I know all their hearts are Golden as was his sisters Im sure was also prayers for all his Family and friends during this time and the days ahead .Pray you take comfort and have the peace that comes from Our heavenly Father sincerely Marcia B Mccracken

Marcia Mccracken - April 20, 2022 at 04:29 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Goldfinch Funeral Home - April 19, 2022 at 08:29 AM