



James D. "Jim" McDermott

August 5, 1932 - November 4, 2019

James D. "Jim" McDermott, age 87, of Wheeling, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2019, after a hard fought battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Jim was born on August 5, 1932 in Huntington, West Virginia, to the late Patrick and Marjorie McDermott. Jim's father, Patrick, a University of Pennsylvania graduate and World War I veteran, was a highly respected teacher and coach in the Huntington area. Unfortunately, he died when Jim was just a little boy, at the height of the Great Depression. Under very difficult circumstances, Jim's mother worked tirelessly to make ends meet and to raise her young son, with a great deal of help from Jim's beloved older sisters, Eleanor and Mary. In the McDermott family there was a strong emphasis on their Catholic faith, academic and athletic achievement, and good old fashioned hard work. Like many children of the Depression era, Jim came up the hard way, but the lessons and values that were forged the hard way were of immeasurable value in the years to come. Jim excelled in academics and athletics (tennis and basketball) at Huntington St. Joseph's High School, and went on to play tennis at Xavier University, where he graduated summa cum laude. While at Xavier, Jim enrolled in the U.S. Army's Reserve Officer's Training Corps program, and proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, where he attained the rank of Captain.

Jim went on to earn a law degree from West Virginia University. He was an outstanding law student and was honored to serve as Associate Editor of the West Virginia Law Review. Thereafter, he maintained a very successful law practice and business career in Wheeling for over 50 years. Jim was recognized as a preeminent lawyer, and was a past president of the Ohio County Bar Association, a member of the West Virginia Bar Association and American Bar Association, and also served on various boards of directors in the Wheeling area over the years.

Jim was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sara J. ("Sally") McDermott, with whom he traveled the world and had a wonderful life. He is survived by three children: son, Greg (wife, Laurie), daughter, Erin, and son, PJ (wife, Kathleen); four grandchildren: Morgan, Jackie, Sara and Ethan McDermott; and many beloved extended family members and close friends, all of whom will greatly miss his sharp wit, keen intelligence, sense of

humor, honor, integrity, love and support. Jim's life was one that was truly lived at the highest level.

At Jim's request, there will be no visitation.

Memorial donations in Jim's honor may be made to Oglebay Park (in care of the Oglebay Foundation, 465 Lodge Drive, Wheeling, WV 26003), where Jim enjoyed walking hundreds of miles over the years with his beagle friend, Pepper: or to Valley Hospice (Liza's Place, Care Center South, 308 Mount St. Joseph Road, Wheeling, WV 26003). Arrangements by Kepner Funeral Home, 900 National Road, Wheeling, WV (304) 232-2732.

Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.kepnerfuneral.com

Comments



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of James D. McDermott, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be
forgotten.

My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Army Veteran, James D. McDermott, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - November 13, 2019 at 10:47 AM



“ PJ, we're sorry to read about the passing of your father. He was one of the nicest
people and always funny to be around. Our deepest sympathy.
Chris and Yvette Myers

Christopher Myers - November 12, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ Mr Jim McDermott was always kind and caring and very helpful. A great man and a
truly wonderful lawyer that cared deeply about everyone. He will be greatly missed.
Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Jan and Doug Donley - November 12, 2019 at 09:54 AM