

James Anderson(1926 - 2018)

James M. Anderson

James M. Anderson, a resident of Kensington, California, passed away peacefully on August 23, at age 92, with his wife and daughter by his side.

Born on February 14, 1926, in Summerville, Pennsylvania, Jim grew up in Templeton, a small town near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served in the [Army](#) Air Force from 1944 to 1946 in the Philippines and Japan as a radio operator and telephone lineman, then attended the University of Pittsburgh. With his B.S. in Civil Engineering (1949), he worked as an engineer and land surveyor in and around Pittsburgh until 1958, when he began graduate work at Cornell University. After completing his Ph.D., he taught for a year at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, before taking a job at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1966. There, he taught and did research for thirty-six years. He loved teaching and was a mentor for many graduate students, who remained in touch with him long after they had left. His surveying lab classes were a familiar sight around campus. He knew his undergraduate students by name and trained several generations of students in surveying and photogrammetry. Over the years, as an assignment, he had his surveying students measure the movement of the fault that the UC Berkeley stadium sits upon. He retired from full teaching in 1991, but continued to teach part-time for another ten years. With his good friend Ed Mikhail, he co-authored the textbook, *Introduction to Surveying* and was also one of the authors of *Surveying: Theory and Practice*. He remained active in his profession until his health declined significantly in fall 2015.

In 1968, Jim married Ruth Sherlock, whom he had met at Cornell University. Together, they had one daughter, Connie Anderson. A devoted and loving husband and father, he was steadfast and rock solid, a kind, self-effacing man with a radiant smile and a deep, rich laugh. Though often quiet, he was a great storyteller who could keep his audience in rapt attention. He was also a wonderful listener and his equanimity brought peace to many people. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and loved him.

Always happiest when he was out hiking or cross-country skiing, especially in the mountains, Jim made sure to get away to Lake Tahoe or Yosemite several times a year with his family, as well as to plan road trips to other national and state parks, passing on his love of the outdoors. He chose to spend three research sabbaticals in Scandinavia, two in Finland and one in Sweden. Family travels extended to many parts of Europe and into Asia and South America. He also shared his love of classical music with his family, especially opera; until the very end, music brought him comfort and joy. He was an avid reader, particularly of history, long biographies and mysteries. A lover of exercise, for over thirty years, he ran three miles three times a week, in addition to walking three miles down to school often (and sometimes back). He continued to strive to keep as active as possible even after his body began failing him.

Jim's sister, Emily Schock was two years older than he was and her birthday fell two days before his; she predeceased him by two days. Jim is survived by his devoted wife and daughter of Kensington, CA, by his brother-in-law, Arthur Schock of Pittsburgh, PA, and their children and families, and by two sisters-in-law and their families.

Friends, family and caregivers are invited to attend Jim's funeral service on Saturday, September 1, 2018, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Church (2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley, CA). The burial service will take place at Sunset Cemetery in El Cerrito, CA, on September 4, 2018. Donations may be made to Loaves and Fishes at Newman Hall Holy Spirit Parish in Berkeley, CA.



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