



James Arthur Prior

January 11, 1931 - March 30, 2022

James Arthur (Jim) Prior passed away at age 91 on March 30, 2022, surrounded by family. He will be cremated, and his ashes placed in Lewisburg, Tennessee. Jim was born on January 11, 1931, in Cleveland, Ohio, the only child of Leslie Virgil and Mabel Wilks Prior, both deceased. He is pre-deceased by his wife of 62 years, Housteene (Tina) Hays Prior. He is survived by his daughter Andrea Karen Farmer (Michael), daughter Elizabeth (Liz) Hays Shashaty and four Shashaty grandchildren: Jessica Hays, Leah Emily, James (Jim) Raymond, and Anisa Grace.

Jim attended school in Cleveland Heights, graduating high school in 1949. At age 17, he enlisted in the Ohio National Guard for three years. His college days included the College of Wooster, the Case Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan from which he graduated in June 1954 with a degree in Product Design and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps. He was called to extended active duty in October 1954, serving at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Redstone Arsenal and White Sands Proving Ground during the Korean War era and the Cold War. During the period of active duty, he married Housteene at Redstone Arsenal, where they met.

After active duty, Jim joined Chrysler Missile Division, participating in the deployment of the Jupiter Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Systems to Italy and Turkey and in Cocoa Beach, FL, during the development flights of the Apollo Saturn 1 and 1B systems. While in Florida, their two daughters, Andrea and Elizabeth, were born in Melbourne.

In subsequent employment, Jim was with KDI Corporation in Cincinnati; Tensor Corporation in Lexington, KY; Concrete Structural Systems in Sanford, FL; SEEDCO in Sanford, FL; Planning Research Corporation and Stottler Stagg A/E, both in Cape Canaveral, FL; PRC Environmental Management in Orlando, FL; Earth Resources Corporation, Ocoee; and Property Condition Assessment, Orlando. He retired from PCA in 2010 at the age of 79.

Tina and he were adventurous. From 1959 through 1995, their travels included living 2 years in Italy, and multiple trips to Turkey, Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, South Korea, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, England and Scotland. Much of the travel was work related to Jim's engineering projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. Tina was a frequent companion on these travels and the girls were invited on one trip to Germany.

Jim was a member of many professional organizations including the Reserve Officers Association, Society of Military Engineers, the Ordnance Association, Florida Environmental Assessors Association and International Solar Energy Association. Other memberships included White Sands Pioneer Group, Missile, Space and Range Pioneers, American Legion, Korean War and Service Veterans Association, Cadillac LaSalle Club, Antique Automobile

Association of America and Classic Car Club of America.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice, Bethbirei Church (Lewisburg, TN), and Missile, Space and Range Pioneers. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Tennessee.

Kelly Barber of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Prior family with their arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *The Korean War Veterans Association Department of Florida and Chapter 173 Casselberry send our belated yet deepest sympathies on the passing of our Brother In Arms James Arthur Prior (US Army, Korea & Cold War Era).*

He served his country well and honorably.

May he Rest In Peace.

He was an honorable man. He served the Chapter well. He was a soft-spoken man. He was a friend to many of us in Chapter 173.

He has been and always will be missed.

Jeannette Sieland - April 29, 2022 at 09:39 AM

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“ *I am sorry to hear of Jim's passing. He was a good man and a good friend. I first met Jim when I was walking my dogs in the Idywilde neighborhood of Sanford. As jim was a korean War veteran and I a Vietnam War veteran, we became fast friends. Jim interested me in become a member of the local American Legion post as a member of the executive committee and later he encouraged me to be the Post Service Officer.*

Jim was the Historian and Editor of American Legion Post 53 newsletter. In addition, he posted the the monthly event calendars and participated in many of the activities and cermonies at Post 53. I was privileged in helping Jim acquire VA Healthcare benefits as Service Officer. I am still there in that capacity and have missed Jim after he moved from Sanford due to health concerns. I will pass along his obituary to the Chaplain and current members of Post 53.

My sincere condolences,

Dennis "Woody" Woodcum

Dennis "Woody" Woodcum - April 10, 2022 at 05:25 PM