



James Phillip Gersbach

May 2, 1940 - October 10, 2024

James (Jim) Phillip Gersbach was born May 2, 1940 to William Reinhard Gersbach and Rose Susan Stumpf in Madison, Wisconsin. He had two brothers Bob and Dave Gersbach and a sister Sandy.

He was raised in Madison and later was a long time resident of Barstow and Pasadena

California. Standing at 6'6" at his high school graduation, he was a natural for basketball.

Throughout most of his life he played on many teams. He was a key player for Madison East

High School and later played for the Air Force and Barstow basketball leagues.

After high school, he joined the Air Force. He was deaf in his right ear from birth so he had

to fake being able to hear so that he could enlist. Later in his 20's he would have a diving

accident which took most of his hearing from his good ear. Nevertheless, he refused to let

his hearing loss stop him from accomplishing everything he wanted to do. He served 5

years in the Air Force 4 of which were on the flight line.

In 1958, while stationed in Athens, Greece, he met Ekaterini Perivolidi who he would later marry. They had 3 children Suzanne, Christopher and Mary Ann, who died shortly after her birth.

Jim's first civilian job was with Bendix Corp as an engineer in Santiago Chile. This would be the beginning of many travels for Jim and his young family. Later they would live in

Madagascar and Spain and travel to many countries.

Around 1972, Jim and his family moved to Barstow where he worked at Goldstone for many years and raised his children.

Near 1982, Jim and his wife moved to Pasadena where he worked at JPL as an engineer

until his retirement. Once retired Jim continued to enjoy his many interests and hobbies

and acquired new ones. He learned how to paint and draw and would spend many hours

studying and reading about the Masters. He was also an avid reader of history,

biographies, novels and much more. He knew a lot about rocks and gems and had

collected many unique specimens over his lifetime in the countries he had traveled. He

continued to travel extensively and visited every continent except Antarctica.

The last

country he visited was Turkey just a few months before his passing. He also spoke

Spanish, French, Greek, German and Italian.

He was a very smart, strong and compassionate man.

He went to be with the Lord on October 10, 2024.

He is so missed by his wife Katherine, children Suzanne and Christopher and grandchildren Christian, Emily and Adam who brought him so much joy.

Previous Events

Service

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Burial

OCT **30**. 1:15 PM - 1:45 PM (Pst)

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd
Riverside, CA 92518

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Candace F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Phillip Gersbach.

Candace F. - October 30, 2024 at 12:30 PM

KA

“ Kathy, Suzanne, Christopher and family. Looking back I realize I've known your family for almost 60 years. I was so sad to read about the loss of Jim. He worked hard, took his family where his work was, and more than all he loved you dearly. I wish him Eternal memory and much love to all during this difficult time. I'm sure he's sharing a MGD or Oly with my dad, right now.

Katrina - October 22, 2024 at 09:16 PM