



Jimmy Gardner

July 18, 2021

Jimmy Gardner passed away peacefully with family by his side on July 18, 2021 at the age of 94 at his home in Sarasota, Florida, after living with cancer for the last 18 months.

He led a life of purpose and vigor, with an education career spanning over 40 years, primarily as a beloved high school chemistry teacher, tennis and fencing coach at Millburn High School, New Jersey. He was proud to serve as a past-president of the New Jersey Science Teachers Association and was New Jersey's very first AP Chemistry teacher. Known for his big heart and generous nature, Jimmy was also quick-witted and quick-footed — especially on a tennis court — a savvy bridge and pinochle player, and became an avid numismatist in his retirement.

He blended his keen sense of adventure with his desire to constantly improve his teaching by taking his family on road trips to all corners of the country to attend NSF Institutes and doing teacher exchanges in York, England and Christchurch, New Zealand.

He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Jeanette Gardner, his children Jeffrey Gardner, Maureen Gardner (Jack Olsen), and Lisa Gardner-Springer (Colin); his grandchildren Miriam Olsen, Rachel Springer, and Emily Springer; his many nephews and nieces; and his dear friends.

A World War II Army Air Forces veteran, Jimmy will be honored at a celebration of his life at Sarasota National Cemetery on Monday August 23, 2021 at 10 am.

In remembrance of his life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to Tidewell Hospice (tidewellhospice.org), which provided him and our family with attentive and excellent care.