



Lt. James G. Tench, Sr., USN, Retired

December 26, 1920 - March 19, 2017

James "Jim" was born and raised in Huntington, WV, the son of James H. Tench and Mildred "Milly" F. Wellman. An avid Boy Scout, Jim earned the Eagle Scout award and had a passion for the outdoors. In his youth, he spent many summers on the Outer Banks of Virginia and North Carolina, where he developed a love for sailing and the ocean... a love that ultimately led him to his first career as a Naval Officer.

Jim attended the United States Naval Academy from 1940 - 1943 (class of 1944), graduating a year early due to the pressing needs of World War II. He was immediately deployed to the Pacific Theater, where he primarily served as gunnery officer aboard the USS Mahan (DD-364).

After retirement from the Navy, Jim focused his naval skill for calculating projectile paths onto calculations of a different sort... He returned to school, at the University of Virginia, to obtain a Master's Degree in Education and became a math teacher at Sarasota High School where he taught for over 30 years. Ultimately becoming the head of Sarasota High's math department, Jim was a much-beloved educator, positively impacting the lives of 100's of students throughout his career.

Jim was a loving husband and father, and a man of many talents and endeavors. Due to his voracious appetite for collecting clocks and all things

related to time, many knew him as "the clock man", but he also enjoyed geology, woodworking, and exotic plants. Orchids and staghorn ferns were favorites of Jim's, and he took numerous canoe trips with his son deep into the Everglades to study and document rare and undiscovered varieties. Jim was an active parishioner at Church of the Redeemer, Kiwanis Club member, Key Club advisor, and a Sarasota Pioneer (50 year resident).

Preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Anne C. Tench, and son, James G. Tench Jr., Jim is survived by his daughter-in-law, Cynthia A. Tench; grandchildren, James and Michael Tench; and great-grandchildren Riley and Ashley Tench.

A service of celebration and resurrection will be held 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 31st, at Church of the Redeemer, located at 222 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the church or charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be made through www.toalebrothers.com.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I graduate high school in 1977 had Mr. Tench for calculus and another math class at Sarasota High School. He was very kind and really cared about ensuring the success of his students. Mr. Tench really influenced my life and career choice and as a result I have enjoyed a 35 year career in engineering. He is one of the few teachers that really made a difference in the lives of many students. I am forever grateful for his mentoring. RIP

Jim Wayda - August 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Growing up as kid, "Mr. Tench" and his wife, Ann, were our neighbors. About 6 months ago I drove down the street I used to live on and saw him in his yard, so I stopped to tell him who I was and to say hello. 'Glad I did. He was always a very friendly person. RIP.

Jeff Matthews, aka, Lords - April 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ Mr. Tench (the only thing I ever called him) was a great math teacher, but his real influence on me was as faculty adviser to the SHS Key Club. I am forever grateful for his leadership and mentoring.

Harry Harkins - March 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Mr. Tench was more than just my high school math teacher..he started me in the direction of both of my careers..not only did he instill a life-long love of the mathematics, but he wrote a letter of recommendation for my application to attend the US Naval Academy...50 years later, the greatest experience at my SHS 50th Reunion was sitting with, talking to, & sharing life's experiences with Jim Tench..who am I??*

LtCol, US Marine Corps (Ret) (1969-1992)

USNA, Class of 1969

SHS, Class of 1965

40+ years as HS/College Math Teacher

Bob Geary - March 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Monday, March 27*

He was a kind, caring, and gentle man who made me feel welcome at school and was the epitome of a gentleman. My favorite teacher.

Anne Ruth, Sarasota, Florida

March 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ *MAY THE THOUGHT OF KNOWING THAT FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHARE IN YOUR GRIEF BRING YOUR FAMILY A MEASURE OF COMFORT.PLEASE READ PROV 17:17*

KELLEY - March 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *He was a kind and gentle man. I am proud to have known him these many years since Sarasota High School and most recently at Church of the Redeemer! What a great role model.*

Jim Tollerton - March 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *So thankful that I was a student of Mr. Tench at SHS. I use (and enjoy) mathematics everyday.*

Dr. Lawrence Wild - March 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM