



Joseph James Sullivan

JUN 30, 1928 - JAN 14, 2015



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Joseph James Sullivan, 86, a resident of Heritage Harbour for the last 13 years, and previously of Beltsville, passed away on January 14, 2015.

Mr. Sullivan was born on June 30, 1928 in Ferndale, Michigan to the late Mildred Klein Sullivan and James Benedict Sullivan. He spend his younger years in nearby Mount Clemens, where he attended high school.

Mr. Sullivan joined the U.S. Army in 1945 and served in Korea for two years with the 6th Infantry Division. Following military service, he attended the University of Michigan, where he received a Bachelor and Master degrees in Far Eastern Studies. He was employed for nine years with the National Security Agency as an intelligence analyst. In 1961, he joined the U.S. Information Agency as a China Desk Officer in the Office of Research. He entered the Foreign Service in 1970 and, in that year, was posted in Hong Kong as head of the China Reporting Program. During the famed Chinese Cultural Revolution, he was transferred to the Voice of America as an Asian news analyst, with emphasis on Communist Chinese affairs. He retired from the U.S. radio facility in 1980 as chief of Southeast Asia broadcasts.

Mr. Sullivan is survived by his wife Jean Ruth Roy whom he married in January 1954; two children, Michael B. Sullivan and Ann D. Sullivan; and two grandchildren.

All services are private.



Tribute Wall

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MW

Macushla Wiedorn posted:

Dear Mrs. Sullivan, Michael and Ann: Please accept my deepest condolences on the death of your husband and father. I have been Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan's income tax preparer for the last several years. Each year, my meetings with Mr. Sullivan have been something that I looked forward to because he would share wonderful stories of his career with the U.S. Foreign Service, and his adventures in Southeast Asia. In particular, he would explain how linguistic idiom could be critical in communications. When he learned of my husband's interest in languages, he brought him, as a gift, a small book of translations that he had co-authored - even though he had never actually met my husband. In his dealings with me, Joe had a lively and interested spirit, and a kindly nature. I am sorry to have lost such a bright light to this world. Macushla Wiedorn

January 19 at 8:43 AM

SE

Sally Ehrle posted:

Dear Jean, Michael and Ann, Joe was interesting, unique, and a special person so anxious to use his creativity. I knew Joe best when I was living in Beltsville and was editor of the Beltsville News. He particularly enjoyed writing a Garden Column which used the knowledge he acquired volunteering at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton. He also interviewed residents and Business owners as a basis for other articles and wrote an article on a bike coalition. Both Joe and I were members of the Beltsville Rotary Club, a Club that he enjoyed due to its community service projects and interesting weekly speaker. I arrived at Heritage Harbour in Annapolis just before Joe and Jean. While in our community Joe enjoyed acting in drama productions. For many years he took responsibility for a bulletin board laying out articles on our community and its residents that appeared in the local media. Joe will be missed by many. Sally Ehrle

January 19 at 5:47 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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