

Bower, Dr. James R.

Dr. Bower of Caseville died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009 with his wife of 53 years, Beverly, and family members by his side at Arbor Hospice in Ann Arbor.

James Russell Bower was born on Oct. 12, 1932 in Detroit.

Valedictorian of the Class of 1950 at Elkton Community High School, Jim was salutatorian at Central Michigan University in 1954. Jim continued his higher education earning both a master of arts in mathematics and a PhD in education and psychology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Employed at the University of Michigan as an educator, psychologist and admissions director, Dr. Bower also owned a private practice and was a psychologist in the Van Buren / Belleville school district. Jim and Bev spent most weekends and summers at their cottage north of Caseville, which they purchased in 1970. Through high school, Jim helped run the Bower Dairy Bar at Oak Beach which was built by his parents, Harvey M. and Alvena Bower.

Jim played tuba and piano, traveled the world, loved movies, musicals and people.

He is survived by his wife; twin sons, daughter, his namesake, their spouses and four pairs of grandchildren, Jeffrey (Jayne, Benjamin and Jonathan James) Bower of Ann Arbor; Jonathan (Joyce, Bradley and Sara) Bower of Byron Center; Jamie (Kenneth, Jenna and Kristen) Maskell of Concord, Calif.; James (Barbara, Andrew James and Kersten) Bower of Byron Center; and his sister, Carol (James) Hunt of Boise, Idaho.

Jim was preceded in death by his proud parents Harvey M. and Alvena Bower of Port Austin; his sister, Myrtle; and his brother, Warren.

The life of Dr. James R. Bower was celebrated at a special family gathering featuring scripture, food, music, tears and laughter.

In lieu of flowers, people can honor him with contributions to a charity of your choice.

With strong legs pumping pedals on the grandest piano of them all, his humor and sparkle light the heavens, Night and Day, until we reunite Side by Side.