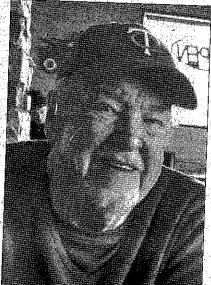# James Alan Kottmeier

Jim was born September 9, 1944, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and passed away at home in Gold Canyon, Arizona, peacefully on May 2, 2020. Jim fought a four-year struggle with MDS, a cancer of the blood cells and bone marrow.

Jim graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Business after serving two years in the U.S. Army. He was proud to have worked as a design draftsman on the Apollo program in his early twenties.

Jim enjoyed a great 75 years despite the limitations of cancer at the end. Jim's life was happy, full of good times with great friends and family. Jim loved music (especially jazz, blues, and rock) and played a mean set of drums. He also enjoyed watching and coaching baseball and swimming, Amtrak train rides, gardening, and a fulfilling career in business. He had a great sense of humor and a quick wit, and kept Cheryl laughing until the end.

Jim lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Boston, Mass., Newark, NJ, and several places in Minnesota (Twin Cities, Northfield and Faribault), as well as St. Charles, Mo., and Grinnell, Iowa. He moved fulltime to Gold Canyon, Arizona, in 2018.

Jim is survived by his wife of 35 years, Cheryl Chase; his son James (Christine) of Franklin, Mass.; and granddaughter, Caroline, a college junior at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Jim is also survived by his surrogate nephew Joe Conry (Jennifer) of Lake Sammamish, Washington, and their children Rowen, Rhianna, and Jameson. He is also survived by sisters-in-laws Linda Anderson, Bonnie (Frank) Mesick, and Gayle (Mylo) Bakken, and many entertaining nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents Bill and Hildegarde (Rabus) Kottmeier and older brother George Kottmeier.

He is sad to leave his wife, all of his great relatives and many good friends. In lieu of gifts or flowers, donate to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Democratic party or a charity of your choosing.

A decision regarding a memorial service will be made at a later date.