



Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong

January 25, 1939 - November 10, 2023

Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong, aged 84, passed away Friday November 10, 2023 at the Kroontje Health Care Center at Warm Hearth Village in Blacksburg, Virginia after a lingering illness. He was born January 25, 1939 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and spent his early years in Menasha, Wisconsin. He graduated as Salutatorian from St. Norbert's High School in DePere, Wisconsin near Green Bay, and although he excelled in English and explored interests in creative writing and poetry, went on to receive his Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD in Electrical Engineering at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Before receiving his doctorate, he worked for AC Delco/General Motors, and as an engineer there worked on the development of the M1 Abrams battle tank and guidance systems for the NASA Apollo rocket program. After receiving his PhD in 1975, Dr. Armstrong began a distinguished career as Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg Virginia that spanned three decades. He retired in 2005 and was granted the honor of Professor Emeritus, having published or co-published four books, advised to completion 49 masters and doctoral students, taught and developed numerous undergraduate and graduate level classes and was recognized as a leading researcher in integrated circuit and computer hardware design. Dr. Armstrong was a loyal member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Blacksburg, a long-time member and past Grand Knight of the Fr. Edward Fox Council #6747 Knights of Columbus, and a long-time member of the church choir. Jim loved spending time with family, music,

playing bridge and sheephead, traveling abroad and throughout the US, golfing, skiing, and supporting Virginia Tech football. He was a devoted husband who met his wife Marie, a teacher in Milwaukee, through their common involvement in the Vagabond ski club, and they celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary on June 29, 2023. He is survived by his beloved wife Marie, his son Michael (Christine) and daughter Anne Marie (Kevin), older sister Ellen Carns, and grandchildren Claire, Abigail, Ben, Ellie and Ella. The funeral mass will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 11:00AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Blacksburg with Fr. John Asare officiating. Burial will be in Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg. A reception at St. Mary's will follow. A visitation will be held on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 4-6PM at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg.

Cemetery Details

Westview Cemetery

723 E. Roanoke Street
Blacksburg, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-3211
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

NOV 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1205 Old Mill Rd
Blacksburg, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.*



November 16, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.*



November 16, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ *Paul, Lexi, Cameron, Erin, and Laura planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.*

Paul, Lexi, Cameron, Erin, and Laura - November 16, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.*



November 16, 2023 at 01:16 PM

LA

“ Love The Team at Hamlin Capital Advisors planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.

Love The Team at Hamlin Capital Advisors - November 16, 2023 at 01:16 PM

SC

“ Prof. Armstrong was my teacher & mentor, and his smile then dissolved any knots a graduate student often had, and reminds me always to be kind and happy. I am sad. May I wish your journey be peaceful.

Sung-Chi Chu - November 16, 2023 at 08:30 AM

AC

Thank you for sharing that; he loved teaching and cared deeply about his students.

Anne Armstrong Campbell - November 23, 2023 at 03:21 PM



“ A Full Life was purchased for the family of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.



November 15, 2023 at 04:34 PM

BJ

“ Dr. Armstrong was my graduate advisor for both my masters and PhD at Virginia Tech. But, more importantly, he became a tremendous friend and that was the greatest impact he had on me. I pray the Lord provides comfort during this time for the family and those who love him. He will be missed, but always loved!
- Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson - November 15, 2023 at 02:12 PM

BJ

“ Brian Jackson purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.



Brian Jackson - November 15, 2023 at 02:04 PM

BJ

“ Brian Jackson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.

Brian Jackson - November 15, 2023 at 02:04 PM

MM

“ Michael Brennan, Margaret, Brennan, Elizabeth & Joseph Sutter & Jane McCauley planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.

Michael Brennan, Margaret, Brennan, Elizabeth & Joseph Sutter & Jane McCauley - November 15, 2023 at 11:12 AM

CE

“ Marie, Anne and family, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Jim. He was such a kind and friendly gentleman. May God walk beside you today, tomorrow and the days ahead. Each of you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May each of you be blessed with the wonderful memories that Jim left you. God Bless.

Charlotte Epperley - November 14, 2023 at 09:37 AM

AC

Charlotte, thank you so much.

Anne Armstrong Campbell - November 23, 2023 at 03:24 PM

CK

“ Sending warm hugs to Jim’s wife, Marie. What a great couple you made. We will always remember his poem dedicated to you called “My Polish Princess. Love you, Marie. Your sister Carmie and Rodger

Carmella Kuhnke - November 13, 2023 at 10:22 PM

CK

“ My heart breaks for Anne Marie, Michael, and their families. Also Ellen. Wish we could be there to comfort all of you. Know that we are with you in our thoughts and prayers. Aunt Carmie and Rodger

Carmella Kuhnke - November 13, 2023 at 10:08 PM

AC

We love you so much; thank you Aunt Carmie.

Anne Armstrong Campbell - November 23, 2023 at 03:25 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. James Robert (Jim) Armstrong.*



November 13, 2023 at 06:39 PM



“ *I worked with Jim at Virginia Tech as a fellow computer engineering faculty member. Jim was an international expert in hardware description languages and was one of the driving forces in creating the computer engineering undergraduate and graduate degrees at Virginia Tech. More importantly, he was supportive of new faculty, like myself. He was always ready to help his colleagues and his students succeed. We have lost a good man. May Jim rest in peace.*

Scott Midkiff - November 13, 2023 at 06:31 PM



Thank you so much, Scott.

Anne Armstrong Campbell - November 23, 2023 at 03:26 PM



“ *We're saddened to learn our friend Jim has passed on 🙏. Jim and Marie were among the first to welcome Alice and I to Blacksburg. They made us feel so very welcomed and that remained. It was Jim and Marie who welcomed Alice into the choir at St. Mary's and to join the Blacksburg Master Choral. We've always cherished our memories with them. We send our blessing for Jim and to Marie and family. Hugs, Alice and Tom Payne 🙏*

Tom Payne - November 13, 2023 at 12:58 PM

BS

Jim and I were part of a group of faculty hired into the Electrical Engineering Department at Virginia Tech during the mid- to late 1970s in an expansion led by then Department Head, Bill Blackwell.

Although our specialties differed, Jim's friendly and welcoming personality made me feel at home despite having just left my native England. For example, even though we were both seeking tenure, we managed to find time to play golf together at the Blacksburg Municipal Course.

In later years, during my tenure as Head of EE, Jim was a tower of strength as we strove to achieve greater national prominence for the department. In particular, his leadership of the Computer Engineering faculty led them to significant successes in research, graduate student advising, and undergraduate instruction.

However, above all, Jim was a team player and talented leader who always displayed friendship, loyalty, and joy in the success of others. i will forever remember Jim and my sincere condolences go the Marie and other family members.

Bill Stephenson

Bill Stephenson - November 17, 2023 at 11:54 AM

AC

Thank you, Bill. I remember hearing your name mentioned often growing up, and know that Dad truly had the utmost respect for you and enjoyed having you as a colleague.

Anne Armstrong Campbell - November 23, 2023 at 03:31 PM