

Dr. James E. Poth, of Oxford, OH, passed away on September 12, 2011 after a long illness. Son of Laura and Ralph Poth, Jim was born in Galion, OH on May 19, 1933. He graduated from Norwalk High School in 1951. He received an NROTC scholarship to Miami University, where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Physics. Upon graduation in 1955, he was commissioned into the U. S. Navy aboard the USS Albany and served as an Instructor at the Naval Air Defense Training Center at Dam Neck, VA. At Virginia Beach, he met his love, Alice Faye Etheridge, from Engelhard, NC. After three years in the Navy, Jim returned to Miami University, where he earned an M.A. degree in Physics. He went on to Yale University and received both an M.S. degree and a Ph.D. in nuclear physics. He returned to Oxford in 1966 as a professor in the Department of Physics at Miami University, where he spent the next 38 years as a devoted teacher. He was an Affiliate Professor with Miami's Institute of Environmental Sciences and Department of Teacher Education. His research interests included nuclear physics, physics of sports, and physics education. He was one of the founding Directors of the Miami Teaching Science with Toys Program and a Director of the Physics Institute/Project Discovery. He enjoyed contributing to science education in many ways, including at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and in the Cincinnati Public Schools. He was also a Visiting Professor at Curtin University in Perth, Australia.

Jim was an avid runner, enjoyed travel and sports, and judged the Cincinnati International Wine Festival for 16 years. He cherished the many longtime friendships he developed while living in Oxford. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church of Oxford and the Miami Men's Club. Special to Jim were his friendships fostered at Miami as a member of Delta Upsilon, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and NROTC. What he loved most was spending time with his family, especially on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He was forever devoted to his family, showing unconditional love and leading by example. He will be missed by his wife, Alice, with whom he shared his life and loved for 51 years, as well as three children; Michael (Karen) Poth, Betsy (Sam) Stewart, Amy Poth, and his seven grandchildren, who were adored by their Pap. He was preceded in death by his parents of Norwalk, OH, and his brother Harold Engel, of Painesville, OH.

The family is extremely grateful for the loving care provided by the Woodland Country Manor staff and so many others. There will be a private burial in the Oxford Cemetery. A memorial celebration will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Oxford on October 8, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.

A memorial fund has been established in honor of Jim at the Miami University Foundation, which will support physics education. Contributions may be addressed to: The Miami University Foundation, c/o Dr. James Poth Memorial Fund, 725 E. Chestnut St., Oxford, OH 45056.

Condolences may be sent to the family at home or online to www.smithoglefuneralhome.com