



James W. Derrick

December 23, 1946 - July 31, 2020

James Walter Derrick

Age 73, of Washington, died Friday morning, July 31, 2020, at Hawthorne Woods Assisted Living Facility. He was born on December 23, 1946, the son of the late George Walter Derrick and the late Mary Inez Fowler - Witkowski (Edward Witkowski). He was proudly raised in Pitcairn, PA by his maternal grandparents, the late Clyde Fowler and the late Nellie Gray- Fowler.

James is a 1964 graduate of Gateway High School and a 1968 graduate of Pennsylvania State College (now California University of PA). In 1990, he received a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh by completing their Vision Studies and Orientation and Mobility Certificate program. From 1990- 2007, he ran a classroom specifically for blind and visually impaired students for the Steubenville City School System. James completed his career working for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services.

On May 9, 1981 he married the late Karen Funovits- Derrick at a private ceremony at the Greenbriar Resort in White Sulpher Springs, WV. Their only child, Jennifer, was born on May 25, 1985.

James is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Derrick of Washington; his best friend Martha Lima of Ft. Myers, FL; and his dog Lucy. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, and wife. A private memorial will be held later this summer at his home, and he will be interred with his grandparents at

Grandview Cemetery in Tyrone, PA. Memorial contributions can be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind (www.leaderdog.org). Professional Services trusted to D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd., Lawrenceville. www.dalesandroltd.com

Tribute Wall



“ I am unsure if this will get to his family 5 years later. I was one of your dad's students and he really made an impact on my life. I wanted to connect and I found this obituary. Please know that he definitely made sure that we had the resources we needed and he was a no nonsense guy. As a teacher myself I appreciate it.

Lakedria C Lozano - April 06, 2025 at 07:54 PM



“ James W. Derrick

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ Jen, so sorry for the loss of your dad. I remember him when my mom was at Hawthorne. He was reluctant to be there at first but he became one of the residents with whom I looked forward to greeting. I will remember him in his Steelers gear.

Sherry Yancosek - August 08, 2020 at 07:55 AM