



James Donahue Obituary

Donahue - Dr. James Latrom, 94, passed away February 15, 2024, in Richmond, VA. He was born in Rockville Center on April 26, 1929. He grew up in Lynbrook, NY on Devon Street with his parents, James and Dorothy, and sister, Dorothy, in an environment that shaped an incredibly happy and gregarious adult. He enjoyed playing various sports in the street and exploring the creek. After receiving orthodontic treatment as a teen he was hired by his orthodontist to work as a lab assistant. That led to a BS from Adelphi University where he played college basketball and met his favorite person Cynthia Howells of East Rockaway. It was then on to a DDS degree from Buffalo College of Dentistry in 1955. Jim and Cynn timer married in 1953. After a 2-year stint as an Army Captain in the Dental Corps at Ft. Lewis in Tacoma, Washington they found the hamlet of St. James, NY, bought the tailor shop on the corner of Lake Avenue and Maple Drive and remodeled it as a dental office. He began practicing dentistry at 587

Lake Avenue in 1957 and the family moved in upstairs. With two kids in tow, James F. and Kimberly, they built a house close by in the Village of Nissequogue, moved there in 1963, and had another son, Christopher, in 1966. Jim and Cyn were avid travelers and saw much of the world. They resided in their beloved village, Cynthia until her passing in 2018, and Jim until his move to Richmond, VA, in 2021. Jim was an active golfer, tennis and platform tennis player throughout his life. A member of Nissequogue Beach Club and Nissequogue Golf club for 54 years. He became involved in civic service when asked to join a committee that successfully prevented the construction of a bridge across the Nissequogue River. That led to a Nissequogue Village Trustee position and then his election as Mayor for two terms (1970-74). During his time in office he started the Nissequogue Volunteer Fire Department, built the Village Hall by renovating the old schoolhouse and purchased the parkland now known as the Village Beach. He continued to devote his time to the village serving on various boards for his remaining years as a resident. In 1984, Dr. Donahue was joined in practice by his son James F. He retired in 1997 after genuinely enjoying 40 years of private practice. He was one of the founding dental staff members of the St. Charles Dental Hospital Residency Program in Port Jefferson in which he volunteered as an attending dentist and dental educator for over 40 years. Jim had an undying love and admiration for his

sweet wife Cynnie. He was a well-known storyteller with an enthusiastic sense of humor. Jim was loved by all who knew him. He was predeceased by his wife Cynthia H. Donahue and son-in-law Kevin Velasco. Surviving are his sister Dorothy Donahue; children, Dr. James F. (Kristen) Donahue, Kimberly A. Velasco, Christopher P. (Laura) Donahue; grandchildren, Nicholas (Molly) Velasco, Katie (Christopher) Schuyler, Collin and Harrison Donahue, Mabel and Lila Donahue; great-grandchildren, Gemma Rose Schuyler, Oliver, and Ada Jean Velasco. Services pending at a later date. Donations in his name to the St. Charles Foundation can be sent to the St. Charles Hospital, Stephen B. Gold Dental Clinic, 200 Belle Terre Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777, 631-474-6332.