

James Walker – BS 1961 Pharmacy

Age 88 – Bakersfield, CA

James Gorman Walker, a cherished husband, father, and grandfather, passed away on July 5, 2024, in Bakersfield, California. Born on October 30, 1935, in Monticello, Minnesota, James was the second of eight children to James and Eloise Walker. He fondly remembered his childhood in the small town along the Mississippi River, where he enjoyed sports, hunting, and fishing. At Monticello High School, James excelled in athletics, earning 12 varsity letters and being named the school's top athlete.

After high school, James attended St. John's University for a year before enlisting in the United States Army. He served three years during the Korean War with the 86th Infantry Regiment in Germany. Following his military service, James moved to Bakersfield, California, in 1958. That fall, he enrolled in the School of Pharmacy at North Dakota State University, where he met LeAnne, the love of his life. They married in 1959 and welcomed two daughters, Wendy and Jill.

James's career as a pharmacist took him to North Dakota, and Arizona, before returning to Bakersfield. He and LeAnne owned a pharmacy in the 1970s. In the mid-1980s, they moved to Lake Oswego, Oregon, where James completed his 35-year career as a clinical pharmacist for Multnomah County's Health Services Division. Upon retirement, they spent a decade in Ocean Park, Washington, before returning to Bakersfield.

James and LeAnne shared a passion for travel, spending time in Spain and Mexico, and exploring Europe. LeAnne passed away in 2012, leaving a void in James's life. James is survived by his daughters, Wendy Linick and Jill Walker, grandson Noah Linick, granddaughter Kristen Walker, and sisters MaryAnne Sullivan, Nancy Michaelis, Patricia Tobias, and Diane Walker. Private services were held at the Bakersfield National Cemetery.