



## James R. Poach

April 13, 1936 - July 28, 2019

Lieutenant-Colonel James R. Poach, U.S. Army (Ret.) LTC. James R. Poach, devoted husband, beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away at his Colorado Springs home on July 28, 2019, at the age of 83. Jim was born on April 13, 1936 to James R. Poach Jr. and Winifred R. Poach. He grew up in Waltham, Mass with his sister Jan, and was recognized as an exceptional baseball player and formidable pitcher throughout high school. Jim attended Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., where his baseball stardom continued. He graduated in 1958 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Infantry. A true patriot, he chose to proudly serve his country in lieu of pursuing minor league baseball, a decision that led to a distinguished and honorable military career. Early in his career, Jim met the love of his life, Rita Fuchs, in San Francisco. Jim and Rita were married at the Presidio in August 1961 and were blessed with 4 children between 1962-1969. Jim's military service included 2 tours in Vietnam, where he served as an advisor, and later as a Battalion Operations Officer for the 506th Infantry. He led troops from the ground and the air, logging dozens of helicopter missions over enemy territories. For his personal bravery, leadership, and heroics, Jim was awarded The Army Commendation Medal. He also was awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart following combat actions where he was wounded by enemy gunfire while exhibiting acts of valor. He was a graduate of numerous Army specialty schools and saw his career span many locations after the war, to include assignments in Ft. Campbell, KY., Ft. Lee,

VA., Ft. Leavenworth, KA, The Pentagon, Naples Italy, Cameron Station, VA., and Ft. McNair, Wash. DC. Jim was also a champion handball player during his military tenure. After retiring from the Army, Jim earned an MA degree in management. He joined a private firm and relocated to Saudi Arabia as an advisor to the Saudi National guard for a short time, and then worked for Unisys Corp in Mclean, VA for 5 years as a project manager before retiring in 1989.

Jim and Rita moved from Northern Virginia to Colorado Springs, Co. in 1989, settling in a home that featured an amazing view of the Rocky Mountains and Pike's Peak. The mountains, lakes, streams, and scenic views of Colorado all played host to Jim's real passion for the outdoors- fishing, hunting, and camping- but fishing by far was his favorite activity. Jim assumed part time work at a tackle shop, and also traveled the state preparing articles for a hunting and fishing magazine. From fly fishing to ice fishing, Jim thoroughly enjoyed sharing his passion for fishing and camping excursions and the quality time it offered with his wife, family, and friends.

While his loyalty to country and appeal for the outdoors was well known, it was Jim's devotion and inseparable partnership with Rita and his overall love of family that was most endearing and defining of him. During their 58 years of marriage, Jim and Rita enjoyed their companionship to the fullest as they golfed, fished, camped, socialized, dined, and traveled together. They traveled to Thailand and China and enjoyed cruises to South America, Panama, Alaska, and the Caribbean. When stationed in Naples Italy, they had an unforgettable long road trip with all their children through several European countries.

Jim was a well-respected father figure and role model, a true family man living out all facets of life with honorable character and integrity. His Catholic faith was very important to him and he seldom missed Sunday mass. He kept his mind sharp mastering crossword puzzles daily and was an avid reader of multiple newspapers and medical literature. Jim played an active role in the lives of his children and grandchildren, from coaching baseball to supporting

them at their sporting events and activities. He experienced great joy in watching them grow up and treasured an 18-year tradition of attending summer family reunions at The Chain-of-Lakes in Waupaca, WI. Blending his military discipline with a good-natured spirit and bit of humor, Jim could build a rapport and hold a conversation with virtually anyone. He touched and inspired the lives of many whom he lived with, served with, fished with, and met along the way. Jim will always be remembered for his genuine love and dedication to his wife and family, and the admirable way in which he lived his life.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Rita Poach; son, Richard (Pamela) Poach; son, David (Sharon) Poach; daughter, Julie (Andrew) Walter; daughter, Kathleen Poach; granddaughters: Shannon (Colin) Hutchison, Amanda Poach, Kendall Poach, Lauren Walter; grandsons: David Poach II, Colson Poach, Matthew Walter, Nathan Walter; great grandson, Cole Hutchison.

Funeral service and interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Service Trust.

# Tribute Wall



“ *James R. Poach*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Jim*

*You were a great neighbor and friend. We will meet again.*

**dennis whittaker** - September 05, 2019 at 02:24 AM



“ *Jim Poach was the reason I attended Norwich University. My father spoke so highly of his Uncle Jim NU 30 and cousin Jimmy that when it came time for me to attend college there was little discussion on the matter. My fondest memory was when Jim came to visit son Richard NU 84 at Norwich with son David. The four of us went white water canoeing and Jim enjoyed every minute of it. I think Richard, David and I were just glad to survive the adventure. My thoughts and prayers are with Rita, Richard, David, Kathy, Julie, and their respective families.*

*Mark Ells*

*NU 84*

**Mark Ells** - August 09, 2019 at 11:19 AM

FB

“ Jim and I were fraternity brothers and members of the leadership of the Corp of Cadets in our senior year at Norwich University in Vermont. He was very dedicated to his studies and Corp responsibilities.

We all knew that Jim would serve his country as a career Army officer. We had no doubt that he would be a leader. In 1958, when we graduated, we were not at war. It would be a while before Vietnam, nevertheless every male had a 6 yr military obligation, with 6 months or 2 yrs of active duty, followed by the remainder in the active reserve. So no one had to worry about getting a job upon graduation. Consequently we all followed our classmates military careers and enjoyed meeting up with them in various parts of the world.

Jim stayed on in the Army as did many in our class. They were proud to serve and we were proud of them.

In looking at his picture and concentrating on his Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and numerous other medals, I thought this is what I expected of Jim all along. The fact that he had a wonderful marriage, good work after retirement and a wonderful family was not surprising.

Rest In Peace. You belong at Arlington

Fred Bertrand

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**Fred Bertrand** - August 07, 2019 at 01:23 PM

RS

“ Please accept my sympathy on the passing of Jim Poach. Bob Svoboda 1958

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**robert svoboda** - August 07, 2019 at 11:42 AM

BM

“ Was a few years behind Jim and played baseball at NU. Jim was the "father" figure for the younger guys on the team and always a gentleman, great guy and leader as well,  
*Bob Maccarini 1960*

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**Bob Maccarini** - August 06, 2019 at 06:09 PM