



James Kerge

August 22, 2019

KERGE, James, of Tenafly, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 22, 2019. He was the devoted and cherished father to daughters Kathryn Kerge-Couch and her husband Mark Couch of New York, NY and Susan Kerge Scherman and husband Jason Scherman of Tenafly, NJ and the beloved grandfather to Juliet Ramsey and Jason James Scherman. Born in 1942 in Brooklyn, New York to parents James and Nedda Kerge, James grew up in Tenafly NJ, and graduated from Tenafly High School in 1959. He attended Lafayette College, graduating in 1963, and then moved to Biloxi, Mississippi where he began his active service as an officer in the United States Air Force. It was in Biloxi that he met his wife of 47 years, Martha Bickerstaff Kerge. They married in 1969 in Gulfport, Mississippi and returned to Tenafly where he lived for 50 years. In New Jersey, he worked for 35 years in the Aerospace division of Honeywell International, Inc. and also took over as owner of Kerge Realtors in 1975 where he served as a real estate Broker for both the Tenafly and Cresskill, NJ offices. He was a dedicated member of the Presbyterian Church at Tenafly and served as a Trustee, Elder and member of the Session. He also was an active member of the Tenafly Republican Club, most recently fulfilling the role of Treasurer, and served in other roles for various community organizations. James also proudly served his country as an officer in the United States Air Force for more than 30 years. He served on active duty for five years as a communications electronics officer, completing his final active assignment as the Chief of the Telecommunications Branch at Ubon Air Force

Base in Thailand during the Vietnam War. He joined the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Reserve Program in 1969 and served in multiple capacities, including as IMA to the Director of Investigative Support and later as IMA to the Deputy Commander for Operations. In that position, he headed the Headquarters AFOSI Reserve Program and was also involved in early planning for Operations Desert Storm/Shield. He retired as a Colonel from the Air Force Reserve on May 1, 1994. Military decorations included the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation. Memorial visitation will be held at Barrett Funeral Home, 148 Dean Drive, Tenafly, on Sunday, September 8 from 3-6 PM. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at the Presbyterian Church at Tenafly, 55 Magnolia Avenue on Monday, September 9, at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Tenafly Presbyterian Church, Memorial Fund, 55 Magnolia Avenue, Tenafly NJ 07670. For directions visit www.barrettfuneralhome.net.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP 8. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home
148 Dean Dr
Tenafly, NJ 07670
(201) 568-8043
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Presbyterian Church at Tenafly
55 Magnolia Ave
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Kerge.*



September 07, 2019 at 02:22 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Jim's family. He was a delightful man. A very positive influence on any one who met him. I am sure his family will miss him very much.*

-Sarah Nall-Lono

Sarah Nall-Lono - September 06, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ *Peace be with you. Let God take care of your family.*

Alberto Lee - September 05, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ *I remember Jim & Martha so well through our real estate careers. Jim and I had a nice relationship for many years. He was always friendly with me and had a great degree of humility. I never knew he was in the Air Force.*

Gary Stewart

Gary Stewart - September 05, 2019 at 04:13 PM

RH

“ *Susan and Katherine,
Please accept my condolences for the passing of your father.
Please give me a call at some point.
201 315 9769
Roy Halvorsen*

Roy Halvorsen - September 03, 2019 at 11:15 AM

MQ

“ *Maureen Quinn lit a candle in memory of
James Kerge*



Maureen Quinn - August 27, 2019 at 01:13 PM