



James Panos

October 29, 2023

James Panos of Syosset, NY passed away on October 29th beside his wife of 58 years, Erika Panos. As the son of Evridiki and John Panos, immigrants from Cyprus, he worked hard to further his education and help make historic contributions to his country. After graduating from NYU with a degree in engineering, he began working for Grumman and quickly joined the space race. With far less technology than is found in today's cell phones, he engineered the landing gear that allowed the lunar module to land on the moon. With a successful landing, he celebrated, knowing attention would only come with failure. Once again, his quite achievements helped save the lives of the Apollo 13 crew as they found refuge in the LEM he had designed. To him, these were some of his greatest accomplishments, but to his family it was his deep integrity, kindness to all and deep feelings of equality for all humanity that will be a loss that will be forever missed. He was a caring husband and best friend to his wife Erika Panos, devoted father to his two daughters, Christine and Nikki and caring brother to his sister, Victoria. He was a good friend to his brotherhood of handball players with whom he would meet any chance he could. He brought joy to his grandchildren, Emma and Ethan, building kites with them and spreading the joy of flight even as his own movements became more difficult. He will be deeply missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing this remarkable person.. Graveside service will be held on Friday at 1:00PM at St. Michael's Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Michael's Cemetery

7202 Astoria Blvd
East Elmhurst, NY

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Michael's Cemetery
72-02 Astoria Blvd. S
East Elmhurst, NY

Tribute Wall

JD

“ *The memory I'd like to share is one of the very first in my life. Sometime before age 5 (in the very early 1960's), my cousin "Jimmy" showed me how to make a paper airplane, but not just any paper airplane. The paper had to be a carefully cut inside page from a magazine. All the folds had to be placed exactly to assure perfect symmetry and then meticulously creased to form razor sharp edges. The final touch was a fold in the tail for stability...and boy, did it fly beautifully and easily across any part of the house, even with some nose damage from hitting the walls. It was certainly a long way from the miracle of going to the moon and back, but to a little boy, it was close. And who would have guessed that he would help make the actual moon miracle happen just a few years later?*

I now gratefully realize that his simple little lesson to a child may have very well been the very fortunate seed that motivated me to become a mechanical engineer...with the attention to detail I'm certain he helped instill in me.

May his memory be eternal.

With our love and deepest sympathy,

Jim Demetriou and family (Tina, Erika, Stacy and Samantha)

Jim Demetriou - November 05, 2023 at 12:41 AM