



James David Veach

January 19, 1947 - December 3, 2023

The following obituary is shared in memory of Mr. James David Veach in recognition and honor of his family and friends in Johnson County and Southern Illinois.

James David Veach, 76, of Teaneck, New Jersey passed away at his home on December 3, 2023. Jim, the son of James F. and Nysabea (Taylor) Veach was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 19, 1947 where his father was attending Northern Illinois College of Optometry. When Jim was two years old his parents moved back to their home town of Vienna, Illinois.

Jim grew up in this small town participating in school sports, mowing lawns, and becoming quite the trumpet player alongside his father, a talent Jim passed on to his son, Zachary. He attended the public school system in Vienna. Jim loved to recall his sixth grade class where his mother was his teacher and he was required to address her as Mrs. Veach.

Jim graduated from Vienna High School in 1965. He then attended Vanderbilt University from which he graduated in 1969. Jim served one year in the Peace Corp and was assigned to Togo, in Western Africa. After his Peace Corp service he continued his education at New York University School of Law, where he received an LL.M. in International Legal Studies.

Jim practiced law in New York City and retired as a partner from the law firm of Mound, Cotton, Wollan and Greengrass.

Jim married the love of his life, Deborah Lifschitz, on May 31, 1986. Jim and Deborah have one son, Zachary Adam Veach.

Jim and Deborah enjoyed traveling and in the past few years enjoyed three trips to Israel and traveled through several Eastern European countries learning more about Deborah's family history.

Jim was always an active community member of Teaneck, NJ. One of his special interests was maintaining and enlarging the green space within the township of Teaneck. He was still addressing this issue with community leaders within a week of his death.

Jim was an avid reader and had a strong interest in history. In January of 2023 he began republishing original articles written and published by his grandfather Earl D. Veach in the Vienna Times, a weekly newspaper published since 1879. This series of articles, entitled "Out our Way" captured the changes Earl had experienced in his life span. At the end of each republished article Jim liked to add annotations connecting the past events, places and people to the present.

One of Jim's greatest joys came in the last few years of his life as he was valiantly fighting his battle with cancer, with the birth of his two granddaughters. Jim was known for his kindness, his gentlemanly manners and his love for his family.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife Deborah, his son Zachary Adam Veach and his wife Jenna, granddaughters Nia and Dani Veach, sister Barbara (Larry) Mizell, Vienna, Illinois, sister-in-law Jeanette (Martin) Heistein,

Teaneck, NJ, as well as four nieces and one nephew and extended family members.

The funeral was held at Temple Emeth, Teaneck, NJ on December 4, 2023 followed by interment at Riverside Cemetery in Saddle Brook, NJ.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

12 Market Street
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

LA

“ I was very sad to learn of Jim Veach's death only last month, April 2025. He was a fine, principled man and we had not been in touch for many years. I was Jim's first wife, and we were married for 12 years. We met at the very end of a study-abroad program, Vanderbilt-in-France, in Aix-en-Provence. We began dating when we returned to Vanderbilt for our junior and sophomore years. A different universe from today's social media, cellphones, and the growing threats to democracy. After graduation in 1969, Jim began law school at NYU and I went to France on a Fulbright. Then the lottery for the draft came along and Jim's number was 65, putting him in danger of being sent to Vietnam. He applied to the Peace Corps and was accepted two weeks before President Nixon cancelled Peace Corps service as a deferment. I applied in solidarity with Jim and we went to Quebec for immersion/orientation. Then my fellowship to the University of Virginia came through, so Jim went to Togo and I went to Charlottesville. When I'd finished my course work in Romance Languages & Linguistics, I joined Jim in Togo, where he was teaching English and basketball at a public secondary school in a village, then called Nuatja, north of the capital in Lome. I was assigned to a private girls' school just outside the village. We settled into our teaching routines, listened to BBC programs on our long-wave radio, and occasionally took the train down to Lome to see other volunteers. We had no running water or electricity, and some rather too exciting adventures, one involving an invasion of migrating ants who moved through the area in front of our cement block house like a surging river. WE stood up on chairs in the house, peering out, and hoped they weren't carnivores. Which they weren't, but they had somehow marauded our kitchen of every scrap of food there, including the butter in our tiny refrigerator. There was also an explosion that injured Jim seriously. His thick glasses and full beard and mustache saved his vision, lips, and neck, and the Peace Corps doctor in Lome, who was an ER specialist from San Francisco, kept him comfortable in the dark room—he was an amateur photographer and had converted one of the bedrooms, which was also air-conditioned—of his house for 3 weeks. During which Jim mostly slept, pain free. When he was able

to go outside, we went to a milk bar for ice cream. He wore lots of sunblock and a big hat to protect his new, flawless complexion. When we returned to the US, Jim finished his law studies and I worked at the French Cultural Services. I then worked in book publishing, and Jim moved on to Kriendler & Kriendler and the DA's office under Morgenthal. Our divorce was entirely amicable, as anyone who knew us would expect, Some months later, when my parents came to visit me over Christmas, Jim joined us for Christmas Eve dinner. In spring 1986 Jim asked me to lunch to tell me about his plans to marry Deborah. I remained single until 1997, when I remarried and moved to Italy. We then came back to the US and live in Millbrook, two hours north of the city. I read Jim's obituary when I was told of his illness and death during a visit to see my 98-yr-old mother. I also found online a wonderfully long interview with Deborah. As I read I felt better and better, realizing Jim had been very happy in his second marriage, that Deborah was a fine person, brilliant lawyer, and devoted parent, as Jim undoubtedly had also been. I know from that interview that he had a marvelous and fulfilling life, full of friendships, professional accomplishment, and love. I am very glad he lived to meet his two granddaughters. And I send Deborah and Zachary and his young family my heart-felt regards and sympathy for their grief. Lorraine

Lorraine Alexander - May 16, 2025 at 01:32 AM

BB

“ *I was a housemate of Jim's during our junior year as part of Vandy in France, and then stayed in touch for a while....but we didn't have fb yet then and lost contact. He was a guy who did things his way, getting a velo(as I recall) and riding to eat lunch at the University, while most of us walked around. Enjoyed our time together. So sorry to learn of his passing.*

Barbara Brown - April 05, 2025 at 08:35 AM

DH

“ *Dick Hodges lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



Dick Hodges - January 16, 2024 at 06:00 PM

JO

“ *Jean Obourn lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



Jean Obourn - January 16, 2024 at 03:39 PM

JR

“ *Jim & Rosemary Rouse lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



Jim & Rosemary Rouse - January 16, 2024 at 01:10 PM

PJ

“ *Pat Jobe lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



Pat Jobe - January 16, 2024 at 11:37 AM

PJ

Barb, so sorry for your loss, prayers for you and your family! 🙏🙏

Pat Jobe - January 16, 2024 at 11:39 AM

SL

“ *Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay - January 16, 2024 at 09:17 AM

JS

“ *John Slack lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



John Slack - January 16, 2024 at 06:56 AM

JS

I was always in awe of Jim: he was the ultimate role model. Jane Monroe told our English 4 class that Jim was the best student she ever had. I remember his valedictory address in 1965. He was the keynote speaker. Prayers for his family and loved ones.

John Slack - January 16, 2024 at 07:02 AM

BR

“ *Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of James David Veach*



Bobby Rentfro - January 16, 2024 at 03:49 AM

EK

“ Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of James David Veach



Elizabeth Kerley - January 15, 2024 at 08:00 PM

EK

Sorry for your loss Ann ,Roy Kerley

Elizabeth Kerley - January 15, 2024 at 08:02 PM

KA

Jim always had a wry wit, I remember in the mid 70' shortly after Jim graduated from NYU law school we walked past a children's playground where one boy was causing a commotion over some toys he was playing with. Jim commented, "He'll make a good partner in a law firm someday-he shares grudgingly."

Keith Alexander - March 26, 2025 at 10:49 PM