

## Burlington County Times

### Obituaries

#### James J. Mather

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James John Mather of Langhorne, formerly of Malvern, Pa., passed away Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 at Crestview Center, Langhorne, Pa. He was 82.

Jim was born Oct. 7, 1933 in Philadelphia to Margaret and Edward Mather. He attended Bordentown Military Institute (Bordentown, N.J.), Northeast Catholic High School (Philadelphia), and two semesters at Point Park College, Pittsburgh, Pa. At Northeast Catholic, Jim competed with the Track and Field team in long jump and sprint events.

Following his education, Jim served with the U.S. National Guard for a total of six years and then launched into a lifetime career in sales. With goods sold that ranged from church steeples to scales and furniture to medical chart recorders, he taught by example to those around him that effective sales was about relationship-building and positive communication. His first full time sales job was in a sporting goods store in Philadelphia, where his 'claim to fame' was selling a pair of Converse High Top basketball shoes to Wilt Chamberlain, when Wilt played for

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Overbrook High School in Philadelphia. Jim went on to work for Graphic Controls, Inc. for over 20 years as both a salesman and District Sales Manager. Graphic Controls was instrumental in developing medical ECG paper and leads that were essential to pioneering the first Coronary Care Units in the United States.

A family man and quick-friend to all he met, Jim was known for his infectious smile, stories and jokes, and uncanny ability to connect with the passion of anyone he met. He was often the life of the party and found great joy in cheering on his favorite sports teams, especially the Pittsburgh Steelers, Penn State Nittany Lions, and high school and collegiate track and field, cross country, and wrestling.

Jim was a man of faith and devoted Catholic. He served as a Eucharistic Minister for many years at St. Mary's Medical Center, Langhorne, Pa., where he administered the sacrament of Holy Communion with great enthusiasm and was known for his great relationships with patients, nurses, doctors and the nuns who worked at St. Mary's.

Jim is survived by his wife of 20 years, Deborah (Gallagher) Mather; his sons, James Mather Jr. and his wife, Mary (Schivoni), Michael Mather and his wife, Kelly (Morris), and Patrick Mather and his wife, Tara (Brosenne); his daughters, Dianne Hellwig and Keri

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Ashenfelder and her husband, David; his sisters, Margo (Mather) Carrara and Gail Mather; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 39 years, Patricia A. (Gorrell) Mather; brother, Edward Mather; sister, Patricia Smith; and son-in-law, Michael W. Hellwig.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 225 Bellevue Ave., Penned, Pa., where the visitation with the family will begin at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim's name can be made to Crestview Center, 262 Toll Gate Rd., Langhorne, PA 19047.

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