

Obituary

James H. Collier
Pharr, TX

James H. Collier, 90 years old, of Lake George, New York and Pharr, Texas, formerly of Scotia, New York, passed away on March 12, 2014 at Rio Grande Regional Hospital in McAllen, Texas, surrounded by members of his loving family.

He was born on June 28, 1923 in Dryden, New York to the late Henry A. and Dorothy F. (Goodale) Collier. James (Jim) grew up in Dryden and Cortland, New York. He graduated from Cortland High School in 1942. After high school, he joined the US Army 8th Air Force 100th Heavy Bombardment Group in 1942 serving in World War II. After the war, using the GI Bill, he attended Siena College in Loudonville, New York from which, in 1950, he received a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Following college, Jim began a long career in Real Estate Brokerage, Real Estate Management and Real Estate Development. A self-made man, he owned his own company, Collier Realty, later becoming Collier Management, until his semi-retirement in the early 1980s. As a broker, he truly enjoyed helping people find the home of their dreams. He is the developer of housing communities known at the time as Timothy Hills in Niskayuna and Comely Hills in Latham, Glen Mary Manor and Maida Lane in Rotterdam. He also was the developer and owner of several apartment complexes including Glen Sanders Apartments and Ballston Avenue Apartments in Scotia and the Glen Arden Apartments in Glenville. The Schenectady Board of Realtors elected Jim to many offices during his career including three terms as president. During his career, Jim received much recognition and many awards for his work in the real estate field.

Jim married Patricia A. Quinn in 1944 in Wappinger Falls, New York. They would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this June. Always a community minded individual, Jim was a member of the Scotia Kiwanis Club and served as president. He was also active in St. Joseph's Church in Scotia and was a member of the St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus. A licensed pilot, he enjoyed flying various small aircraft, amassing over 1,000 hours. He enjoyed boating on the Hudson River and Lake George. An avid sports car and motorcycle enthusiast, he relished the times he could spend cruising the back roads. He loved the Adirondacks, Lake George and his New England Patriots. He also had a passion for traveling the world, visiting many different countries and experiencing many different cultures in Europe and Asia, including China where he, Patricia and others square danced on the Great Wall of China.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Eleanor Husky and Lois Ross; his sons, Michael (2011) and Dennis (1975); and his grandson, Jason (1972).

Jim is survived by his devoted and loving spouse, Patricia of Pharr, Texas; his son, Timothy (Mary) of Henderson, Nevada and Glenville, New York; his daughters, Mary Ann Collier of Rotterdam, New York and Kathleen (Mark) Sullivan of Mechanicville, New York; his sister, Laura Cinquanti of Homer, New York; his grandchildren, Sean (Kelly), Bridget (Desmond), James (Kim), Colleen and Patrick; his great-grandchildren, Scott, Kelsey, Eli, Quinn, Raegan and Noel; and several nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A memorial service will be held later this summer in the Capital District after which interment will be in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Niskayuna. Details will be provided at a later date.

Source: The Daily Gazette Co., Mar. 20 to Mar. 21, 2014

