



James Robert Roach

August 17, 1917 - January 5, 2016

James Robert Roach, 98, passed away Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at Brewster Place in Topeka, Kansas. He was the husband of Elaine Catherine Morel, a 70 year native of Beacon, New York, who preceded him in death on January 15, 2012.

Mr. Roach was born in Malta, Montana on August 17, 1917, to Andrew and Elizabeth (Ruist) Roach. He served in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. He graduated from Montana State College in 1947 and accepted a position at the Texaco Research Center in Glenham NY, where he worked until his retirement in 1982.

He married Elaine Catherine Morel on October 21, 1951. They resided in Beacon for 44 years until they moved to Topeka, Kansas in 1995 to be closer to family members.

During his career at Texaco, Mr. Roach was awarded over a dozen patents for developing lubricants capable of operating at extremely low temperatures, including one that was used in one of the first unmanned probes to land on the moon. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed jogging and hiking. He was also involved in scouting and coaching youth athletics.

Mr. Roach and his wife enjoyed traveling and spending time with their family.

They organized many family trips to National Parks out west and along the Atlantic seacoast. They spent many summers in the Finger Lakes region of New York and often traveled to Hawaii during the winter.

He is survived by his daughter, Mary Gardner, of Topeka, Kansas; his son, Robert Roach, of Bethesda, Maryland; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei School or Grace Hospice, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Resurrection

JAN 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Robert Roach*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 12, 2016 at 03:35 PM



“ *James Robert Roach*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Thank you Mimi and Bobfo sharing your dad with the world. It was a joy to take care of him in his final days. We love you all.----The Meadowlark Family*

evaleen white - February 05, 2016 at 04:12 PM



“ *My condolences and delay in sending this message to your Dad James. I knew him through your Mom Elaine when she and I worked as secretaries at IBM. I seem to have missed her death notice, my apology. I remember your Mom always talking about their trips to Scroon Lake and how excited they were with their children ! You were very blessed children with special parents. My prayers are with you and all your family. God Bless.*

Vincintina Pulcastro - January 18, 2016 at 09:18 AM

PM

“ Dearest Mimi, Bob, and family,
What a beautiful video tribute to your dad, our dear Uncle Jim. He was always such a quite, strong presence, who so enjoyed his home and family. You should be so proud of the life he led. I have fond memories of one of the last visits to North Walnut Street and Uncle Jim sharing his latest "home brew", certainly to be followed by some of Aunt Elain's homemade chocolates (in some exotic shaped mold of course!). What a party must be going on in heaven! He surely is in loving company. Sending our prayers and wishes for peace with your loss.
Love,
Cousin Pat

patricia murphy-lynch - January 16, 2016 at 10:47 AM

CT

“ Mimi ,Bobby and family,
Sorry to read of the passing of your Dad. My sincerest sympathies to all of you. Take comfort in knowing what a great Dad he was and all around family man. May he have a peaceful journey home to be with your Mom. God Bless you all at this difficult time.

Cathy Vinall Tompkins

Cathy Vinall Tompkins - January 13, 2016 at 09:25 PM

JL

“ Bob and family,
My deepest sympathy on the loss of your Dad. I remember him as a kind and gentle man from our basketball days at St. Joachim's. He was blessed with a long and fruitful life which he so richly deserved.
Jim LaColla

Jim LaColla - January 13, 2016 at 06:49 AM