



## **James S. Keith**

July 26, 1933 - August 4, 2025

### **James Keith: An engineer, innovator and devoted family man**

James Keith, a respected engineer and beloved member of the Cincinnati community, passed away August 4, 2025, in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the age of 92. He was born in 1933 in Riverside, California. James leaves behind a remarkable legacy of both professional achievement and personal devotion.

### **A pioneer in engineering**

After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, Jim joined General Electric as an engineer. In the early 1960s, he made significant contributions to the field of jet engine design. His innovative work involved pioneering the use of computer methods to understand the complex principles of flow and combustion within jet engines, providing insights that shaped the development of engines used worldwide.

Jim was a lifelong learner and embraced new technologies throughout his career. He continued to write software and develop new engineering tools and methods until his retirement from General Electric in the early 2000s.

### **A man of many passions**

Beyond his professional life, Jim was known for his diverse interests. In retirement, he pursued several passions which included an active involvement with the Cincinnati Cinder Sniffers, a dedicated group of railroad enthusiasts who build and operate their own scaled steam engines.

He occasionally ran his own one-eighth scale steam engine pulling several passenger cars behind. Yet, he also found immense joy in supporting and encouraging others in their shared hobby.

### **A devoted family man and mentor**

James embodied a nurturing spirit, reflected in his commitment to his family. He and his wife, Dorothy, shared 65 years of marriage. Together, they raised three sons, Mike, Bill, and David, instilling in them a sense of curiosity and encouraging them to follow their dreams. He was also a steadfast supporter of his wife's endeavors, whether it was constructing props for her church productions or supporting her return to teaching. He leaves behind his wife, three sons, their wives, Lynne, Terri, and Beth, and five grandchildren: Sam, Mitch, Sophie, Charlie, and Nicholas. His presence and unwavering support will be profoundly missed by his family and all those whose lives he touched.

If you want to do something to remember Jim, give to your favorite charity in his name. He liked to give to a range of charities particularly those associated with preserving the history of railroads and the environment. He also recently sent a contribution to the Red Cross to provide support for the Ukrainians.

His favorite Railroad Charities included: Southern California Railroad Museum, Union Pacific Railroad Museum, and Friends of the East Broad Top Railroad. He gave to the Ohio Environmental Council and the Save Redwoods League among others.

A memorial visitation and service were held on August 13, 2025 at the Spring Grove Funeral Home in the Tri-County/Springdale area of Cincinnati.