



Dr. James Joseph Berna

October 18, 1919 - February 3, 2012

Dr. James J. Berna, of Chestertown, died February 3rd 2012, at Chester River Hospital Center. He was 92.

Born in Philadelphia, PA., on October 18, 1919, Jim's life and career spanned many areas and parts of the world. He held a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in New York, NY. He then became a professor of economics for several years at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He went on to accept the Directorship of the Indian Social Institute in India, where he worked on numerous development projects throughout the country for over a decade. There he also met Maria C. Boria, his future wife, in a team of professional international volunteers. Jim helped Maria and her team to start a small hospital in South India in 1959. This hospital has now become one of the most prestigious medical institutions in South India, the Pushpagiri Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Center, located in Kerala State.

Jim eventually left India to take a job as an Economist for the United Nations Development Program in New York, NY extending his advisory capacity well after his official retirement in 1981, when he and his family moved to Chestertown. Locally he was an active participant in the Historical Society of Kent County, Washington College and the Sultana Projects. During this time he also continued to work as a consultant for several organizations including the UNDP and the World Bank, traveling the world until he reached the age of

85 in 2004. Jim was an avid reader of international affairs and read The Washington Post daily until his last day. As a former Director of the UNDP said upon receiving the notice of his death, "the world has lost a great man for development". His wife, Dr. Maria C. Boria Berna, has lost a great husband. His children, Robert B. Berna and wife Alison and Gioia B. Berna Killam and husband Jonathan, have lost a wonderful father. His four grandchildren, Maddie, Sydney, James and Tillie, have lost a very loving grandfather.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held Thursday evening, February 9th from 6-8pm at Helfenbein Funeral Home in Chestertown. A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, February 10th at 11am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Chestertown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity w www.habitat.org

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **9**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
(410) 778-0055
info@fhnfuneralhome.com

Service

FEB **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
508 High Street
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna* ”



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr. James Joseph Berna* ”

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Dr. James Joseph Berna* ”

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Dr. James Joseph Berna* ”

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Evelyn Petersen lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna* ”



Evelyn Petersen - February 12, 2012 at 02:26 PM

TG

“ Tony And Donna Gibbons-Neff lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna



Tony and Donna Gibbons-Neff - February 08, 2012 at 06:15 AM

FL

“ Frankie & Cathy Legg lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna



Frankie & Cathy Legg - February 07, 2012 at 08:46 PM

TJ

“ Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna



Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell - February 07, 2012 at 10:01 AM

KR

“ Kelley Reuwer lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna



Kelley Reuwer - February 07, 2012 at 08:19 AM

DT

“ *Dot Thim sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna*



Dot Thim - February 06, 2012 at 07:28 PM

DT

“ *Dot Thim lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna*



Dot Thim - February 06, 2012 at 07:27 PM

BN

“ *Beverly Nanni lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna*



Beverly Nanni - February 06, 2012 at 07:26 PM

PC

“ *Peggy Clothier lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna*



Peggy Clothier - February 06, 2012 at 03:34 PM

MR

“ *Maryann Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of Dr. James Joseph Berna*



Maryann Ruehrmund - February 06, 2012 at 12:23 PM