



James R. Benford

January 27, 2001

James R. Benford of Easton, MD died on Saturday, January 27, 2001 at Genesis Elder Care - The Pines. He was 87.

Born December 9, 1913, in Schenectady, NY, he was the son of the late Frank G. and Georgia Rattray Benford. He was the second oldest of four brothers all of whom went into different fields of engineering. Their father was one of the physicists in the early days at General Electric.

Mr. Benford graduated from the University of Rochester, in Rochester, NY in 1935 and went to work for the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company. He started as an optical engineer and retired as Director of Visual Instruments Research & Development in 1970. Among the projects he designed were the Cinemascope movie lenses, telescopes, periscopes, binoculars, microscopes and binocular microscopes. He received many patents while working there, and an additional one in retirement for a multi-speed transmission for bicycles for smoother shifting. Prior to his retirement he wrote the section on Microscopes for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

On August 5, 1939 he married the former Margaret Baily, who died last summer, just a couple weeks shy of their 61st anniversary. They lived in Irondequoit, NY, a suburb of Rochester, from 1944 until 1970, where they enjoyed sailing on Lake Ontario. In 1970, he took early retirement, and they

sailed from Lake Ontario to St. Petersburg, Florida. They bought a house on the water there and kept their sailboat in their back yard for almost two decades, making many cruises to the Bahamas and the Keys. Much of this time he also had a part-time hobby business making scale model reproductions of antique furniture pieces. He also volunteered with an organization that rebuilt bicycles for a youth program in St. Petersburg. He was an active tennis player until his early 80's. In 1998 they moved to St. Michaels to live with their son and his family at a time in their lives when they realized that they could no longer fully care for themselves.

Mr. Benford is survived by a son, Jay Benford and his wife, Dona of Easton; one daughter, Jean Benford Jordan and her husband Ray of Fort Lauderdale, FL; two brothers, Harry Benford of Michigan and Robert Benford of New Hampshire; three grandchildren, Joshua Benford of Southampton, England and Elizabeth and Lorena Benford, both of Easton.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 2, 2001 at 3:00 PM at Talbot Bible Church, Easton, MD.

Memorial donations may be made to Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Dr., Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *James R. Benford*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *James R. Benford*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *James R. Benford*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM