



## Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck

December 25, 1936 - November 7, 2016

James Wyatt Peck of Grasonville, MD, passed away suddenly on November 07, 2016. He was 79.

Born on December 25, 1936 in Clinton, MO, the son of the late Wyatt N. and Pauline M. (Cole) Peck, Jim grew up in Clinton, learned to play golf as a boy, spent summers working as a fishing guide at his parents fishing lodge in Canada, and graduated as the valedictorian from Clinton High School. A proud graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point (Class of 1958), he served for over 25 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers until January of 1984, when he retired as a Colonel. While in the Army, he served in Korea in 1960 and in Vietnam in 1965, earned a Masters degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois, taught Civil Engineering at West Point, served as the Deputy District Engineer in Kansas City, served as the Battalion Commander of the 9th Engineer Battalion (Combat) in Aschaffenburg, Germany, and served as Commander and District Engineer in Baltimore during which he managed water resource development and environmental protection in the Susquehanna Potomac and Patuxent river basins and the Chesapeake Bay. Jim was committed to preserving and enhancing environmental values, and after retiring from the U.S. Army he worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources from 1983 to 1995 as Director Water Resources Administration and then Assistant Secretary. Following that, he became the

Director of Maryland Environmental Services, a non-profit public organization. From 1995 until he retired in 2003, Jim accomplished numerous innovative environmental projects that benefited many communities in Maryland.

Jim met his wife-to-be on a blind date while stationed at Fort Riley when he was 22 years old, and it was love at first sight for both of them. They were married less than six months after they met, on December 20, 1959. There was nothing on the planet that made Jim happier than being married to MaryRuth. During their 53-year marriage, they raised three successful and happy children, and did almost everything together. After their nest was empty, MaryRuth learned how to play golf and they spent the next 30 years playing golf together at their home in Prospect Bay Country Club and at many courses all around the country. They also love going to the annual West Point Class of '58 reunions, they enjoyed their Orioles and Ravens season tickets, and went on many cruises and other adventures. They never tired of being together.

A little over a year after MaryRuth passed away following a 5-year battle with cancer, Jim had the miraculous good fortune of meeting Susan Miller of Annapolis, MD, and falling in love for the second time in his life. Jim and Susan also loved adventures, from a cruise to New Zealand to art history classes to attending many plays and shows in Annapolis, Baltimore, and DC. James is survived by his three children, Dan (and his wife Susan and their children, Madeline and Wyatt), of Lafayette, CO; Debbie Brown (and her children Prescott, Rachel, Clara, and Spencer Brown) of Portland, ME; and Jim (and his wife Cristin and their son Graham) of Ocean City, MD , as well as many friends, most especially his second love, Susan Miller. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 53 years MaryRuth Peck, as well as his two brothers, Bob and Bill Peck of Springfield, MO.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 from 5 to 7pm at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Chester, MD. Burial

will be on Tuesday November 29, 2016 at 10:00 AM in West Point Cemetery at West Point, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund at [www.fallenheroesfund.org](http://www.fallenheroesfund.org)

# Cemetery Details

## West Point Cemetery

Washington Road  
West Point, NY 10996

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **16**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island  
106 Shamrock Road  
Chester, MD 21619  
(410) 643-2226  
[info@fhfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhfuneralhome.com)

## Burial

NOV **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

West Point Cemetery  
Washington Road  
West Point, NY 10996

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 15, 2016 at 06:58 AM



“ *Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**former Clinton resident** - October 15, 2018 at 04:34 PM

FR

*We came across this photo and would like to reunite it with the family. Email [kathleennj@comcast.net](mailto:kathleennj@comcast.net) to send an address to mail it to. My mother is from Clinton and knew Jimmy Peck. This pic was in her Clinton high school momentoes.*

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**former Clinton resident** - October 15, 2018 at 04:37 PM

KS

*“ My twin brother Keith and I were were Clinton High School classmates and considered Jim to be the best friend we had at that time of our life. We were basketball teammates grades 8 thru 12 and brother Keith and I have many good memories that involve Jim. Kent Scott*

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**Kent Scott** - January 25, 2017 at 06:14 PM

TD

*“ I said good-bye to the man who took a chance on hiring me in May 1990, Colonel James W. Peck. I am grateful to Jim for that opportunity. If he had passed on me after my interview, I may never have become a Natural Resources Reserve Officer; and I may never have my DNR family. Many of you have been so close to me and my family. I have had some of you in my life for 26+ years. I absolutely love my DNR family. I owe all of that to Jim. May you rest in peace, Colonel Peck. Thank you .*

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**Toni Danza** - November 17, 2016 at 08:45 PM



“ *Mr. Peck, as we at MES always called him, was one of the most honorable and decent men I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I worked directly for him for the entire time he was Director of the Maryland Environmental Service. During his tenure and because of his leadership, we accomplished some extraordinary things at the Agency. He was a mentor, an inspiration and a friend that I will always remember with fondness and reverence.*

*Beth Wojton*

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**Beth Wojton** - November 17, 2016 at 10:23 AM



“ *I hardly know where to begin with all the memories I have of Jim. He was my husband's, Newman Walters, golfing partner for many many years. Newm loved every minute on the links and he especially loved having Jim as his partner. They were the most unlikely pair and yet, they formed a permanent bond. Newm was always amazed at jim's record keeping as he recorded every little detail of every game they played. Newm said he was never as scared in his life when on one of their golf trips the hotel did not have their room ready. Well, Jim used his military voice and by the time he was done the foursome were ensconced in the penthouse. Jim was always the gentleman with his dry sense of humor and every time he called our house I tried to make it my mission to get a chuckle out of him. I didn't succeed much but when I did it was well worth the effort. I will be forever grateful to Jim for being one of my husband's best friends and making his life richer for his friendship. I cannot be there tonight as I am recovering from surgery but want all his family to know that he was very special to my husband and I and he will always be in my thought as one of the truly great guys in golf and all aspects of life.*

*Much sympathy,*

*Julia Walters*

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**Julia Walters** - November 16, 2016 at 06:53 PM

JA

“ *Mr. Peck was truly a gentle-man.*

*John Allen*

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**John Allen** - November 15, 2016 at 04:16 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck.*



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November 15, 2016 at 01:45 PM

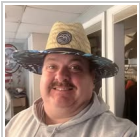
MK

“ *I had the pleasure of working for Jim at the Dept. of Natural Resources, and then later at MES. Jim was a true man of integrity. When I first got to know him I found out that he was my brother-in-law's Commander in Germany. Such small world! My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

*Marcia King*

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**Marcia King** - November 15, 2016 at 10:37 AM



“ *Mr peck you were a very good director for Mes I came aboard when u were directer you were very nice to me and treated me well rip*

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**Benny Willis** - November 15, 2016 at 08:42 AM

WA

“ *West Point Society of Annapolis purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck.*



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**West Point Society of Annapolis** - November 15, 2016 at 08:40 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck.*



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November 15, 2016 at 07:21 AM

KM

“ To the Peck family. I worked with Colonel Peck during his time at the Department of Natural Resources. As a young man in my twenties when I started, "The Colonel" was so far up the chain of command from me that I barely knew him. Over the years, however, I came to learn that he was a strong leader and who offered me both support and direction as well as the freedom to follow my own initiative of newer and better ways to make environmentally-based decisions. In due course, I too became the Director of the unit that had been the Water Resources Administration.

*I became a better professional and person due to his influence in my life.*

*He, and you all, will remain in my thoughts.*

*Kenny Miller, Annapolis, MD*

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**Kenny Miller** - November 14, 2016 at 03:07 PM

MS

“ Jim Peck, what can I say? We played golf together for over 33 years and we became best friends. After his retirement we became partners in many events in Prospect Bay Country Club. Jim carried me in many tournaments and we won our fair share. We went on many golf trips to the Carolina's and national, etc..



*Jim was a true gentleman and will surely be missed. Thank God for his friendship and the many things I learned from him.*

*May God bless his complete family.*

*-Maurice Spedden*

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**Maurice Spedden** - November 14, 2016 at 02:17 PM

EP

“ Jim was my husband's older brother. He always remembered my birthday and I enjoyed a visit couple of years ago when he returned to nearby Clinton, his home town in Missouri.

*Our two families had many festive Christmases here in Springfield, Mo, at Mother & Dad Peck's home during our children's younger days. Social media has kept us in touch with pictures and messages. My sons as shocked as I. May you rest in peace.*

*Fondly, Elizabeth Peck, Alex & Howard*

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**Elizabeth Peck** - November 13, 2016 at 07:00 AM

PD

“ Our deepest condolences to Jim's family. We are so blessed to have had Jim as a great friend and neighbor . We will especially cherish the great times and rounds of golf together here and in Florida with Jim and OJ . Thoughts , Love, and Prayers . Karen and Pat Dooley

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**Patrick Dooley** - November 12, 2016 at 09:09 PM

PD

“ Patrick Dooley lit a candle in memory of Col. (Ret.) James Wyatt Peck



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**Patrick Dooley** - November 12, 2016 at 08:30 PM

DW

“ Col. Peck was an upstanding man who exemplified the best of America. You can see that in his children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to his family and friends.  
*Darlene & John Wilczynski*

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**Darlene Wilczynski** - November 12, 2016 at 11:23 AM

EH

“ I have known COL Peck since 1981 when I became the roommate of his daughter, Debbie, at the Naval Academy. Debbie and I remain close friends and went to the Army Navy football game and a Ravens game all in one weekend with her dad and brother. He passed away way too soon. Totally unexpected and that makes this even harder to take. He still had plans to go on trips and to celebrate Christmas and his 80th birthday with his family. My heart aches for his loved ones but I find comfort in knowing he is reunited with MaryRuth and his brothers and parents.

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**Emily Harman** - November 12, 2016 at 08:53 AM

BM

“ Jim was a very special friend to us for many, many years. Starting out as Plebes in 1954 at West Point, they quickly realized they were fellow Missourians as well as C-1 company mates. They were also roommates for part of their days at West Point. When I asked Bud what was a favorite memory, he said there were a few that could/should not be repeated but he remembered being envious of Jim going fishing with his Dad and catching a Muskie ! All our sympathies to you. He was a special man and friend ...



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**Bud and Holly Moentmann** - November 12, 2016 at 08:18 AM

PW

“ I am so very very sorry for the loss of your Father. I did not know him but I did know your Mom. I only wish that he had not left you soon and so suddenly. It's been a very sad week. I know that he will always be with you. Prayers and comforting thoughts are wished for you all.

Sincerely,  
Peg Wagner

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**Peg Wagner** - November 10, 2016 at 08:46 PM

BB

*Deb*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I offer my sincerest condolences on the loss of your father. Please let me know if you need anything.*

Sincerely  
Bruce Brown

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**Bruce Brown** - November 11, 2016 at 02:53 PM

RA

*I was fresh out of college and Mr. Peck (as I will forever know him) hired me for my first "real" job, with MES. With his military background and as Director of MES, he could have loomed intimidatingly large in that corner office. While he was a highly respected leader in the office, I always felt comfortable stepping in and saying hi. He'd look up with that hint of a smile, and you always knew that you had his full attention. Treating everyone with fairness while being a brilliant leader....those are the qualities that Mr. Peck showed to me. He was a good, good guy.*

*Rachael Allen*

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**Rachael Allen** - November 15, 2016 at 11:10 AM



*Beth and Rachel said it all. Mr. Peck was a great leader at MES and probably one of the most intelligent individuals I have ever known. I was always amazed at his ability to remember even the most minute details from briefings - he could spit out the information almost verbatim. While at first he could seem a little intimidating, as I got to know him better, I was able to witness and appreciate his very dry sense of humor. He was respectful and kind, and treated all of us fairly. I will never forget him - he will be greatly missed.*

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**Ellen Frketic** - November 15, 2016 at 02:21 PM