

JAMES THOMAS PRATHER

Cdr. James Thomas Prather, USN (Ret.) died of a heart attack on 6 August 1994 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Alton, Illinois. Funeral services were held at the Elias-Smith Funeral Home in Alton on 10 August, attended by family and friends, including his former USNA roommate/classmate and longtime friend, Gary Ballard;

Jim was born on 24 September 1938 in Kansas City. After graduation in 1960, Jim served in various posts with the Civil Engineering Corps and retired from the Navy in 1980. Jim held a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and received his professional engineering certificate. He was also a member of the American Society of Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. At the time of his death, he was a civil engineer for Principia College in Elsah, Illinois where he was the Director of Facilities for the past five years and just recently appointed to direct the construction of a new science building on campus.

Jim's wife, Judy, stated that they lived happily on campus in a house on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and that Jim viewed this as "close to heaven." Jim and Judy were blessed with a combined three daughters, two sons, and six grandchildren. Gary Ballard echoed the sentiments of all those who were fortunate enough to have known Jim, stating that Jim was a "true friend" and he will surely be missed.

*Mike Willsey '60
Shipmate, November 1994*