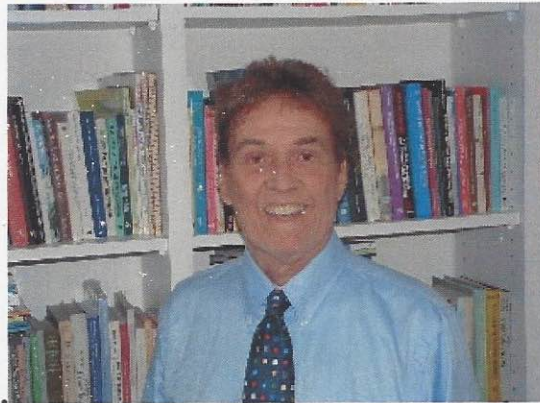


Distinguished San Diego State University Educator, James Edward Flood, PhD, Dies

Christmas eve was the perfect day for the birth of **James Edward Flood** who viewed life as a series of never ending **gifts**.



His first gift of early family life was shared in an extended, New York, Irish clan with one sister, Margaret Kurmis now living in Florida, and two brothers--Frank of Beaver Creek, Colorado, Robert who preceded him in death, many cousins, aunts and uncles. Jim's parents, Francis and Ethel Parker Flood, also preceded him in death.

Education, which began for him as a young boy in Queens, New York, was Jim's next gift. His love of learning grew from his years at Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School in Brooklyn, Catholic University where he completed a Bachelors of Arts degree in English, New York University where he graduated with a Master of Arts degree in English Education, and Stanford University where he was awarded his PhD in language and literacy.

Jim's third gift was one that he never stopped celebrating. It was the gift of marriage to his beloved wife Dr. Sharon Flood, a retired San Diego State University Professor, with whom he shared 32 years of wonderful partnership. Through that partnership came the gifts of their children who, for Jim, came in the packages with the biggest and brightest bows. His joys never ceased as he embraced with pride and wonder every experience of his daughter Johanna, who received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley and is presently a third year law student at the University of San Diego, and his son Bart, a graduate of Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Arts degree who is presently a second year law student at the University of California, Hastings.

His lifetime friendship and professional partnership of over 30 years with Dr. Diane Lapp was another of his cherished gifts. Their collaboration began at Boston University and continued at San Diego State University with the co-authoring of hundreds of articles, textbooks, and children's materials and a unique speaking partnership at conferences, conventions, and schools throughout the world. These publications include: *Teaching Reading to Every Child*, a reading methods textbook in its 4th edition; *Content Area Reading and Learning*, which is in its 3rd edition; *The Handbook of Research on Teaching Literacy Through the Communicative and Visual Arts, Volumes. 1 & 2*; and *The Handbook of Research in Teaching the English Language Arts*, in its 2nd edition.

A lifetime of friendships, with people from many walks of life, young and old and multiple cultures, all of whom Jim believed offered him new insights about endless topics, was a continuing life gift. From these friendships Jim received many gifts but these did not compare to the gifts he gave back to his family, friends and community as he listened, talked, played, wrote, laughed, healed, celebrated, and lovingly shared, during many, many glorious

years. The love he gave to each person, he embraced, was so fierce yet tender that it will continue as a guide for many.

His students often commented about how they enjoyed him as a teacher. Jim began his teaching career as a high school English teacher and administrator in New York and New Hampshire. His prowess as a teacher grew through a graduate assistantship at Stanford, a Professorship at Boston University, a Distinguished Professorship at San Diego State University, and a Fulbright Fellowship to Portugal.

Jim's teaching resulted in contributions to the literacy lives of many children. Being elected President of the National Reading Conference and the International Reading Association's Board of Directors recognized these professional contributions. Jim also served for six years as a co-editor of California's literacy journal, *The California Reader*.

Dr. Jim Flood chaired and co-chaired many committees of the International Reading Association, the National Council of Teacher's of English, the National Council of Researcher's in Education, and National Reading Conference. His numerous educational awards include being named as the *Outstanding Teacher Educator* in the Department of Teacher Education at San Diego State University, *The Distinguished Research Lecturer* from San Diego State University's Graduate Division of Research, and a member of both California's and the International Reading *Halls of Fame*.

Jim died on Sunday, July 15 at Thornton Hospital after a three-year battle against Myelodysplasia Syndrome. His wife, Dr. Sharon Flood, two children, Johanna and Bart Flood, father-in-law Anthony Ryan, sister Margaret Kurmis and brother Frank Flood survive him. They invite you to share a celebration of his life at the Church of the Immaculata at the

University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110 on July 30 at 10:30 am followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations in Jim's name to either the Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School, 357 Clermont Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11238 or to Health Sciences High and Middle College (HSHMC), a school dedicated to preparing future health care professionals. HSHMC will create the James Flood Reading Room, a library for students to enjoy. All donations in Jim's name will be used to purchase books that he would have enjoyed sharing with these students. The address of HSHMC is 8888 Balboa Ave., #150, San Diego, CA 92123

His family may be contacted at:

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