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James C. Beidleman (1937 – 2017)



Dr. James C. Beidleman (Jim) passed away at the age of 80 on August 29, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Joanne, and his two daughters, Debbie and Diane. Jim, born in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania on November 13th, 1936, studied mathematics at Bucknell University, where he also played basketball. He went on to study Ring Theory under Dr. Lee Anderson at Penn State graduating in 1964: his dissertation was entitled On Near-Rings and Near-Ring Modules. The same

year he graduated from Penn State, Jim began his tenure as a faculty member at the University of Kentucky where he remained until his retirement in 2012. Jim was a devout Christian and was passionate about his faith, his family, his friends, and mathematics, in that order. Jim was very encouraging to graduate students and young researchers; he was well-known for his gregariousness. He more than once commented on his belief that the mathematics he did was much less important than the relationships he built through mathematics; he valued relationships very much and he cared deeply about many in the Group Theory community that he met through Mathematics. While Jim began his research studies in near-rings, he quickly gained interest in Group Theory. After publishing several single-authored papers in near-rings, which are to this day cited from time to time by those working in near-rings, he began his study of Group Theory and collaborated with a plethora of coauthors. His collaborators (34 in total) include the following in alphabetical order: Khaled A. Al-Sharo, Mohamed Asaad, Adolfo Ballester-Bolinches, Benjamin Brewster, Julia Chifman, John Cossey, Raymond H. Cox, Martyn R. Dixon, Donald C. Dykes, Ramón Esteban-Romero, Wafaa M. Fakieh, Arnold D. Feldman, Annalisa Galoppo, M. Pilar Gállego, Peter Hauck, Hermann Heineken, Rola A. Hijazi, Roberto Ialenti, Manfred Karbe, A.R. Makan, Massimo Manfredino, Martin L. Newell, M.C. Pedraza-Aguilera, Vicent Pérez-Calabuig, Matthew F. Ragland, Derek J.S. Robinson, Francesco G. Russo, Jack Schmidt, Tae-Kun Seo, Alexander Skiba, Howard Smith, Armond E. Spencer, M.J. Tomkinson, Michael B. Ward.

MathSciNet attributes 129 publications to Jim; approximatley 30 were published after his retirement and over half (71 to be exact) were published after he turned 60 years of age. His work in Group Theory included work in both infinite groups and finite groups. He studied several classes of groups including generalizations of groups in which normality is a transitive relation. He also worked on Frattini-like subgroups, products of groups, subgroup embedding properties, Fitting classes, and formations. Jim influenced many during his career and supervised four Ph.D. students at the University of Kentucky: Don Dykes, Ben Brewster, Matt Ragland, and Julia Chifman.

Matthew Ragland