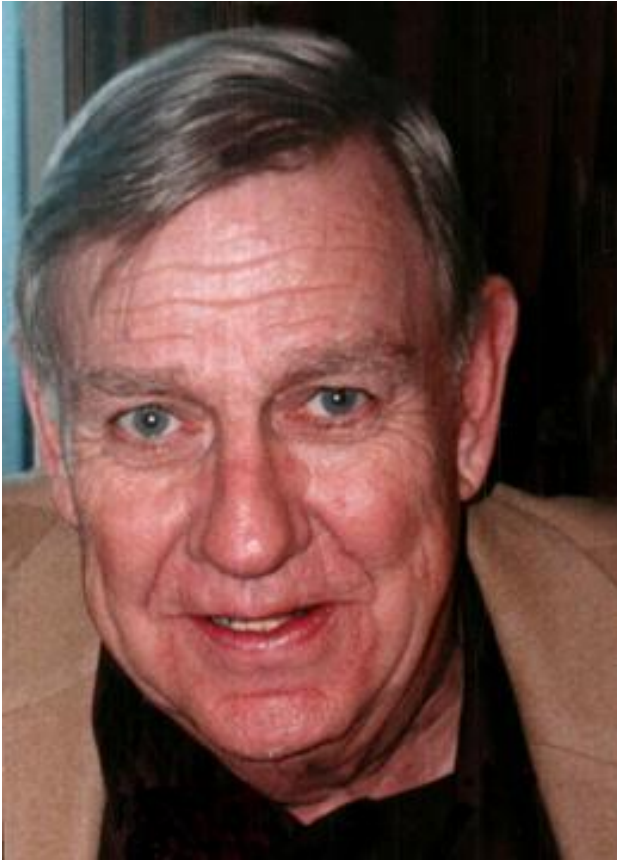


James E. Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship



James "Jim" Fitzgerald was a lifelong Westfield resident who was devoted to his family and his community. According to his wife Florence, "Jim was a great guy; he was thoughtful, kind, well-mannered, and a perfect gentleman. He was a quiet man, but he had a sense of humor!" Friends and colleagues had admiration and respect for Jim Fitzgerald. This scholarship was established as a tribute to him.

Growing up in Westfield, Jim attended the city's public schools. He played football for Westfield High School and was a member of the team that participated in the Peanut Bowl. After graduating in 1951, Jim joined the U.S. Air Force for four years and served in the Korean Conflict. He returned to Westfield and went to work in the accounting field. While working full-time, Jim took night courses at A.I.C. under the G.I. Bill. It took him seven years, but he graduated in 1977 with his B.S.B.A. degree. Jim was employed by several area businesses over the years including Hamilton Standard, Greenfield Tap & Die, and Belanger Heating & Plumbing of Easthampton.

Jim married his beloved wife Florence in 1958, and they were making plans to celebrate their 50th anniversary when he passed away unexpectedly. He was a true family man who was a wonderful father to his daughter Debra. After Debra's family moved to California, Jim and Florence often traveled there to spend time with their daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

Taking care of his family was most important to Jim, but he also found fulfillment in his community involvement. When he was younger, he was a member of the Westfield Jaycees. From 1972-1982, Jim served as Westfield City Auditor. He joined the Westfield Kiwanis in 1972, was treasurer for several years, and was still a member in 2008. Jim was an avid golfer and played at local courses often. He also belonged to the Sons of Erin golf league for many years. He was a fan of the Boston Red Sox, but he was absolutely passionate about the New England Patriots!

When Jim Fitzgerald passed away in March 2008, Debra and Florence suggested that donations be made to for a scholarship in his memory. To truly honor Jim Fitzgerald, this scholarship is designated for a student studying accounting or a related field.

Written by: Florence Fitzgerald, Wife
May 6, 2009