Professor Emeritus James Bramble passed away on July 20, 2021, in Austin, Texas. He was 90 years old.

James (Jim) Bramble earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1953. He earned his Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland in 1958, where he was a student of Lawrence Payne. After working for General Electric and the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, he became a professor at the University of Maryland. He was recruited to Cornell in 1968 to join Professor Payne in creating a group in applied mathematics within the Mathematics Department and supporting the new Center for Applied Mathematics, which he later directed. In 1970, Jim co-founded the Finite Element Circus, a conference devoted to the theory and applications of the finite element method, and related areas of numerical analysis and partial differential equations; he joined the (virtual!) 50th anniversary of the conference in November 2020. From 1975 to 1983, he was chief editor for the journal, Mathematics of Computation. Jim served as Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate studies from 1981 through 1984. He retired from Cornell in 1994 and took up a Distinguished Professorship at Texas
A&M University, where he retired as Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the early 21st century. He taught numerous undergraduate and graduate students, mentored 22 Ph.D. students, and had colleagues throughout the world.

Much of Jim's research focused on numerical methods for partial differential equations. His early work involved the mathematical analysis of finite difference methods for elliptic problems. His later work was more focused on the numerical analysis of finite element methods. His work on multigrid and domain decomposition methods exemplified applied mathematics that bridges rigorous theory and practical numerical computation. Perhaps his most famous result, the Bramble-Hilbert Lemma provides an essential inequality for proving error estimates for the finite element method. This was a collaborative effort with his Ph.D. student, Stephen Hilbert. In 1985, Jim received an honorary doctorate from Chalmers University in Sweden in recognition of his important contributions to mathematics. Jim was a generous and effective collaborator. He established groups of colleagues and students at each place he worked (Maryland, Cornell and Texas A&M) that expanded his work and influence in the field.

In 1978, Jim married Margaret (Peggy) Hays, now deceased. Evidently drawn to Austin for the possibility of year-round tennis, Jim and Peggy returned to their lakeside cottage Ithaca every summer. They enjoyed entertaining friends and family, playing golf and tennis, and boating. Jim is remembered with great affection for his ability to balance mathematics and his other passions, his infectious enthusiasm enhancing his mathematical collaborations.

James Henry Bramble was born on December 1, 1930 in Annapolis, Maryland to Edith and Clinton Bramble. He had two sisters, Mary Aller and Barbara Lawrence, both deceased. He is survived by his four children, Margot Dermody of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Tamara Lamenzo of Needham, Massachusetts, Mitzi Bramble of Harwich, Massachusetts, and James Bramble of Austin, his step-son, Alan Hays of Ithaca, and eight grand-children. He also is survived by his first wife, Mary Eppie Boze. He will be remembered fondly by
family, friends, and colleagues worldwide.

Written by Tara Holm (chair), John Guckenheimer, Timothy Healey, and Alex Townsend