



James N. Perry

December 31, 2013

James N. Perry of Dacula, Georgia passed away peacefully on Tuesday afternoon, December 31, 2013. He was 80 years old. He leaves his wife of nearly 30 years, Barbara F. Perry of Dacula, daughter Jane Perry of Santa Fe, New Mexico, son Bob Perry of Waltham, Massachusetts, daughter Amy Blackman of Nashville, Tennessee, granddaughter Ruby Blackman also of Nashville, step-children Cara, Neal, and Noelle Guri, and step-grandchildren Charlie and Stella Guri, and Adrian Remington.

Jim Perry was born in 1933 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to parents Stewart and Alice Perry of Winthrop, where he lived his entire childhood. He served briefly in the U.S. Air Force after graduating an Electrical Engineer from Cornell University in 1955.

After his 1959 honorable Air Force discharge Jim embarked on a 40 year career in manufacturing management that began at a company called "Microwave" in New Hampshire and ended at Lockheed-Martin in Silicon Valley. At the vanguard of what we now call "globalization," his four decades at work took him from New Hampshire to Massachusetts to California to Hong Kong, Okinawa, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines, then to Connecticut, Tennessee, and back to California, meeting a couple of "interesting" sitting heads-of-state along the way (Ferdinand Marcos and Park Chung Hee). - He saw the world, including the Pyramids, the Acropolis, the Great Wall, the Great Barrier Reef, Angkor Wat, and the Taj Mahal.

Jim retired in 1999 to become whom he jokingly referred to himself as: "Mr. Margaret Thatcher," supporting Barbara's two-year professional assignment in the UK. A highlight of that experience for Jim was befriending a former World War II British fighter pilot who owned a private plane in which they would fly over the Cliffs of Dover and on to France for lunch!

A committed professional for his entire career, he took his retirement just as seriously. He spent the last nearly decade and a half of his life focused on tending conscientiously and lovingly to all the important relationships in his life: with his wife, children, grandchildren, and more distant relatives, with his friends, with his body, and with God.

Jim Perry was at various points in his life--among other things--an Eagle Scout, an actor (peaking as a well-reviewed George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*), an athlete (a runner who completed the San Francisco Marathon, declaring afterwards that, as far as

he was concerned, one marathon was enough!), a walker (a speed-walker for a time, much to the entertainment of those who were lucky enough to see him do it!), a hiker, (including at age 77 scaling New Hampshire's Mount Chocorua with his children), a golfer, a tennis player, a skier (water, downhill, and cross-country), a sailor, a scuba diver, a pilot (of jets in the Air Force, and gliders in the 1980's - for which he also qualified and moonlighted as an instructor), a public servant (Town Meeting Member), a business leader (Chamber of Commerce President), and a Swedenborgian Christian. - Most recently, "Mr. Jim" very much enjoyed being a regular in the Very Important Parent (VIP) room at Adrian's school, volunteering as head of the Tuesday group each week, helping teachers and staff members with tasks ranging from laminating to creating special projects for students.

Finally, Jim was a very sentimental man. He was moved by music (of all kinds, but Sinatra tops the list!), by performance, by history (the more personal, the better), and by relationships. A gifted raconteur, he was what one might call an "occasionist" - so good at elevating celebrations of all kinds, and especially at marking personal milestones. He always managed to find ways to sprinkle a little emotional stardust over people at the important events of their lives by sharing memories and pointing out in often surprising ways the good that others have done, and the impact and difference they've made in the world, always well-supported by humorous, pithy, and poignant stories and images and songs. A talented man, it was those tailored, personal gifts to others that may have been his greatest gift of all.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held in the Boston area in the springtime, arrangements to be completed in the coming months. Donations in Jim's memory may be made to the Swedenborgian family church camp in Maine that he loved and attended most summers from 1947 through 2013: Fryeburg New Church Assembly, c/o 61 Clark Lane, Waltham, MA 02451.

Tribute Wall



“ *James N. Perry*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM

HZ

“ *I will miss Jim terribly. I met him only three years ago, but he feels like an old friend. He was warm, interested, expansive, modest, witty, and loving. He was interested in people and history to an extraordinary degree. I loved talking with him about the people and events at Fryeburg New Church Assembly when he was a teenager and a young man. My condolences to Barbara, Bob, Amy, Ruby, and the rest of his loved ones.*

Herb Ziegler - January 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *I was very sad to hear about Jim's passing. He will be missed, and will live in the hearts of those who new him best. Know that Barbara and family are in our hearts and minds during this time of mourning.*

Love, Joe & Rachel

Joey Lemanski - January 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *We did not have a long friendship but Jim Perry made me feel like I was that dear to him.*

Anna Martinian - January 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Amy and Ruby, please know we are all thinking of you and your family. So sorry for your loss of such a dear person and I know your strength. It's just so hard to lose someone you loved so much. Keep in touch. Love from, Brooks, Bert, Ella, Hop Alex and Walter I'll let Harding know as soon as I can.*

brooks mathews - January 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Words cannot express my sadness to learn of the passing of Jim. Hold tight to your memories and please know that I am thinking of you and praying for peace and comfort to you and your family.*

Jean McLaughin - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ amy and family,

I am so sorry to hear of the death of your father. I met your dad on more than one occasion and he was a kind and friendly man. It is so hard to lose a parent, and the patriarch of the family is just devastating, regardless of the circumstances. in time, new year's eve will be a wonderful evening to look back and share old memories and toast your father for all he was in life and now in spirit. my thoughts are with you amy and ruby, much love, Cherie ps I am around if you need a shoulder. I have been there.

cherie robbins - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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cherie robbins - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Love to Cara and all of Mr. Perry's family members. We are thinking about y'all and praying that God gives you comfort during this sad time.

Mike and Beth McLaughlin - January 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ You will truly be missed.

Beth Hansen - January 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I was saddened to stumble across the news of Mr. Perry's passing. I was also saddened that I did not know him better. However, what I do know is that he was a constant supporter of Fort Daniel and his grandson Adrian. His dedication to our school and his family was evident. I will be praying for all of you.

Jennifer Coffield - January 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ *It's the stories I will remember most ... that Perry humor, and a voice unmistakably his.*

Lots of love to all from Elizabeth and Farley

Elizabeth Perry - January 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ *Wonderful memories of Jim will be with us always. He was a joyful person and a joy to be near and will be missed by all who knew him. May loving thoughts surrounds you all during this sad time.*

Merrilee - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Please accept our deepest sympathy. Jim was a very friendly person with a wit to match always bringing the best to a situation. He was a true gentleman as well as a gentle man. We will miss him, but have wonderful memories.*

Martha & Dave - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *We would like to extend our Deepest Condolences to Jim's family. We were so sorry to hear about Jim's passing. We had the great honor of having him visit us here on Long Island a couple years ago. He shared many stories and we went out to eat at a museum type restaurant that had old airplanes from the past we all had so much fun. He will be sadly missed.*

Scott & Karen Perry - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Jim did not forget his brother Skip's family after he died in 1994. He kept us all in his heart. I will always treasure his kindness, his thoughtfulness, his sense of humor. Thank you, Barbara, Jane, Bob and Amy for sharing him with us. Sister-in-law Lynne*

Lynne Wells - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Jim was such a wonderful man and is a blessing to the heaven which he now calls home. We will all miss him at the Fryeburg New Church Assembly; his wit, his gentle humor, his intellectual curiosity, and his welcoming and loving smile.*

Rev. Susannah Currie - January 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM