



James Frederick Henry

September 13, 1936 - October 13, 2014

James Frederick Henry, age 78, of rural Murphysboro died at 7:42 pm on Monday, October 13, 2014. He was at home and surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Charleston, Illinois on September 13, 1936 to Volney Kash and Virginia Sue (Husmann) Henry. He was the middle son of five children.

The Henry family moved several times throughout Jim's childhood and he once told his family that he had attended 12 different schools by the time he graduated. Graduating high school in Springfield, IL in 1954, he immediately enlisted in the US Navy. Jim spent 4 years serving on the USS Montrose, where he gained his love of water (serving in the Pacific Ocean) and many life-long friends. After his discharge from the Navy, he reenlisted in USAF as Intel Technician for four more years. During his years in the USAF, he was stationed in Japan, where he raced motorcycles and taught the English language to Japanese children. He also served on a snow ski patrol where he would deliver heat oil to rural families, carrying it on his back.

In 1962, after discharge from the military, Jim went to Greenup, IL where his parents had a restaurant called the Salad Bowl. During those years, the majority of the Henry children were in the Greenup area and all involved in the running of the restaurant. It was also during those years that Jim went to

college and earned his BS in Education and History from Eastern Illinois University, in Charleston. He went on to later obtain his Master's degree from EIU.

In 1968, Jim accepted a position at a small school in Hidalgo, IL. He taught all subjects for 7th and 8th grades as well as coaching all sports and working in administration. After that he did a short stint as the principal at Willow Hill, IL before accepting the Vice Principal position at Cumberland Unit #77 Grade School, in Toledo, IL. During these years, Jim touched many lives and created many lifelong friends. He is still fondly remembered by his students and the locals from the restaurant.

From 1974-1978 Jim was with the State Board of Education, in Springfield, Illinois. He was an administrator for the 12th county career guidance center in Flora, IL. He was the director at Beck Area Vocational Center from 1983-1985 in Heckler, IL. He returned to the State Board of Education again from 1985-1991 where he served as Regional Vocational Administrator, first for East Central Illinois (16 counties) and then transferred to Southern Illinois (30 counties). From 1991-2000 he worked as an independent consultant, instructor and evaluator. He also taught business at Shawnee College, in Ullin, IL. After his retirement in 2000, he spent some time as Marshall at Hickory Ridge Golf Course.

In 1987, Jim married Janice Sirles. They spent the next 27 years in the Carbondale/Murphysboro area. Jim was a Master Gardener and an excellent cook who loved nothing more than to have a home full of friends and family to prepare a feast for. They enjoyed traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren. They traveled to St Louis often where they enjoyed the symphony and many Broadway plays at the Fox theatre.

He is survived by his adoring wife, Jan, of Murphysboro; daughters Eden (Tony) Niccum and Gillian (Dan) Sowers, both of Greenup, IL and Suzanne (Craig) Harju of Carbondale; five grandchildren, Tyler Carl, Josh Carl, Camille Niccum, all of Greenup, IL; Cameron Niccum and Ella Harju, of Carbondale; and one great-grandson, Riley Carl, of Casey, IL; two sisters, Neva Calvert of Cadet, MO and Kay (Kenneth) St John, of Greencastle, IN; a brother Paul (Barb) Henry of Ft Myers, FL; many nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Steve.

Visitation will be Friday, October 17, 2014 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home. A Memorial Service for James Henry will be Friday, October 17, 2014 at 3:00 pm at the Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home. A Reception will follow. A Private Burial will be at a later date in Alto Pass Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make memorials to the University of Florida Foundation, for Type 1B Glycogen Storage Disease Research. Contributions may be mailed to UF GSD Program, PO BOX 100296, Gainesville, FL 32610 and will also be accepted at the funeral home. Jim felt strongly about this program, as daughter Suzanne has suffered from this disease for over 43 years.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Frederick Henry*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Dear Jan, So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. Please know that we have you in our thoughts. Our most sincere condolences.*

John and Mary Pohlmann - October 17, 2014 at 11:39 AM



“ *Dear Jan and Family,
It is with deep sadness we learn of your loss of such a fine and dear gentleman. Jim contributed greatly to the Livestrong group and will be very missed. Our sincere condolences.*

*Judy and Tom Decker
St. Augustine, Fl*

Judy Decker - October 15, 2014 at 06:59 AM