



James Lehr

February 16, 1938 - June 22, 2012

James Henry Lehr, age 74 of Ottertail, MN and Indian Wells, CA passed away in the presence of family on June 22, 2012 after a courageous 18 year battle with prostate cancer in Fargo, ND. Jim was born February 16, 1938 in Fargo to Henry George and Nina (Parkman) Lehr. He spent all of his childhood years in Fargo and graduated from Fargo Central High School in 1955. He went on to college at North Dakota State University where he met Sally Davis and they got married on March 29, 1958 in Wadena, MN. Jim worked in the freight and distribution industry before entering a family business involved in produce distribution and trucking with his father-in-law Russ Davis and brother-in-law Gary Davis in 1969. Jim and Gary expanded the business into six communities across the upper Midwest. They were particularly proud that Russ Davis Wholesale is an employee owned business and are grateful to the many employees who helped in its growth. Jim was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing and golf and was active in supporting Ducks Unlimited. He was active in community affairs having served on the Wadena School Board, as a member of the Board of Trustees for his local church and was active in the Wadena hockey association. It was almost twenty years that Jim battled with cancer. He fought it endlessly and valiantly without complaint. Jim lived by the motto "Attitude is Everything" and encouraged others to do so also. His three sons who also have prostate cancer wish to heighten awareness of early prostate cancer screening such that others will not suffer the fate of their father. He was so proud of his five grandchildren. He will be

sorely missed by so many friends and relatives. Jim was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Nina; and his sister Ruth Ann Lehr Devine. He is survived by his wife Sally; sons J.D. (Connie) of Forest Lake, MN, Tom (Nancy) of Kingsburg, CA, and Steve (Natalie) of St. Paul, MN; grandchildren Alison (Matt) McIntyre and Mitchell Lehr of Duluth, MN, Taylor Lehr of Chico, CA, and Avery Lehr and William Lehr of St. Paul; sister Marilyn Breyer of Moorhead, MN; his beloved Davis family Gary (Benda) of Ottertail Lake, MN and Linda (Rodger) Rumery of Springfield, OR; and all their families. Memorial services were held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, June 28, 2012 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wadena with Pastor Marli Danielson presiding. A service at the Desert Horizon Country Club in Indian Wells, CA will be held at a later date. The family prefers memorials to the Prostate Cancer Fund www.pcf.org/JimLehr

Tribute Wall

BK

“ *What can a person say? As soon as we heard, Bob & started talking about the memories that we had with you guys. You will never know how much we appreciated and respected him. His whole life was so successful, not only in business, but especially his family! WoW!!! You have much to be proud of. Our prayers are for you, but mostly praising God for Jim's life!! Be strong, be courages, God promises his help and His love.*

Bob & Bev Krusemark - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My heart goes out to you all. I wish I had the courage to tell Jim this earlier, but I have a great respect for him and the legacy he left. As a daughter of one of Jim's employees at RDW, I can't thank him and Gary enough for the opportunity they gave my father. Jim always believed in my dad. Always respected and treated him so well. The amount of respect and honor my dad has for Jim, made him a better man. My father started at RDW a young man. I believe that his hard work and dedication to RDW was because of how much Jim believed in him. His legacy will never be forgotten by our family. Thank you Jim for believing in my dad. Praising God for your life!*

Kristen McMartin - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Gods speed Jim. He was a great and inspirational leader. Nothing could dull his infectious smile and positive attitude. Rest in peace jim you will be missed.*

james rosenau - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Our sincere condolences to the entire family for your loss. We think of Jim with fondness and associate him with many good Wadena and Northwest Angle memories. God bless you, The Eldevik family

Karl and Carole Eldevik - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ My prayers are with you Sally, JD, Tom, Steve and families. I'll always remember Jim from our family gatherings, a game of golf or spending time reminising about our parents. I'm out of the area on Thursday and won't be able to be there, but I'll be thinking of you all.

Vicky Calhoun - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ We remember Jim fondly as a man who was always so approachable, so friendly, so warm in spirit, and truly genuine. To his family, we know you must have felt so blessed to have Jim in your lives as your husband, father, grandfather, uncle, etc. We know you will all treasure those wonderful memories he has left in your hearts. In friendship, the Scheideckers

Craig and Janelle Scheidecker - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Dear Sally, JD, Tom, Steve and families,

We are so sorry to hear of Jim's Passing. We have soo many memories of both Wadena and Ottertail Lake that we will always cherish. We will miss Jim and will keep you all in our prayers. I look forward to visiting with you.

God Bless!

Tim, Laura, Colin and Kate Neitzke

Tim & Laura Neitzke & Family - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Thank you Jim for having such a positive impact in my life. I enjoyed the time we got to share both on and off the course. My prayers go out to Sally and your family.

Tom Beaudry - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ So sorry to hear of Jim's passing I knew Jim when I was a little girl as I lived next door to him when they lived on 7th Ave. N. Fargo. My birthday was 6 days before his. We were friends while we growing up but when we got older and got into school did not see him much as we never had any classes together. I remeber his Mom and Dad and borth of his sisters a Marilyn use to babysit me. Wish that I could have gotten to know him better after we got older. My symphay to you and you family
Valoyce (Bunny) Nelson Workin

Bunny Nelson Workin - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ I knew Jim from our high school days, and kept in touch after he entered the trucking business with Midwest Motor Express in Fargo. I had a great deal of respect for Jim and helped recruit him to my company while we both still lived in Fargo. Jim was always a gentleman during our times together in Fargo and I am saddened to hear of his passing.

Richard - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Dear Sally and Family,
In reading the PJ online, I was so saddened to learn that Jim had passed. I was an employee of RDW a number of years ago. Jim had hired me for a data entry position. Through that I became part of the RDW crew, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I remember Jim as always having a smile to give and a cheery "Good Morning" upon arrival at work. My condolences to you and your family.
Sincerely,
Judy Kramer

Judy Kramer - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I WENT THROUGH SCHOOL WITH JIM. I REMEMBER HIS AS BEING A VERY NEAT CLASSMATE. I HAVE ONLY SEEN HIM AT CLASS REUNIONS SINCE FHS GRADUATION. MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU, HIS FAMILY. I KNOW I CANNOT KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I CARE.

JEANINE PETERSON MITCHELL

JEANINE MITCHELL - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM