



Chesley Michael Perry

NOV 21, 2010



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Chesley Michael Perry

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Chesley Michael "Mike" Perry, Sr., long time resident and third generation pioneer family member of Fort Myers, passed away at his home on November 21, 2010. Mike was born on March 11, 1941 in Fort Myers, Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chesley F. "Chet" Perry and Janett C. Perry. He is survived by his daughters, Cynthia Perry Fetterhoff (Charles) and Barbara Perry Dunshee (Scott); son, Chesley Michael Perry, Jr. (Gina); sister Lin Perry Voyles (Augmond); grandchildren, Steven, Molly, and Benjamin Fetterhoff, Caitlin and "Cameron" Dunshee, Isabelle and Grant Perry; as well as many aunts, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Mike's father Chet, former President and Publisher of News-Press, was instrumental in Mike's many years working for the News-Press, in a variety of roles. Mike also served as a national bank examiner in Atlanta, Georgia. Shortly after his career with the News-Press, he opened The Kitchen Cupboard retail store in the Edison Mall and eventually moved with his family to Franklin, North Carolina where he owned and operated Scottie's Drug Store. After living in Franklin for seven years, he returned to his home, Fort Myers. Mike was an avid boater and was very involved in community-related events, such as the Fort Myers High School Reunion Committee and the Fort Myers Pioneer Club Committee. He had been a member of Rotary Club of Fort Myers, Royal Palm Yacht Club, Edison Pageant of Light, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to Goodwill Industries or The Southwest Florida Community Foundation. A memorial service will be held at Riverside Community Center on Saturday, December 4th, at 2:30. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at: www.fortmyersmemorial.com.



Tribute Wall

Chesley Michael Perry

S

Sally Wortman posted:

I knew Mike only briefly, as we crossed paths in our work. However, I was familiar with the family, as I have Fort Myers history in my "veins" and was delighted to meet him. He called me several times before his untimely death, and I was very fond of him. He was embedded in Fort Myers history and proud of it! He loved his grandchildren and talked about them often. I will always regret his early death and continue to remember him fondly. Sarah Wortman/Fort Myers, FL

February 9 at 6:26 PM

TI

Tiffany posted:

I recently moved out of Fort Myers, and back to my hometown of Denver. I have tried calling Mike several times, and just recently sent him a post card. I accidentally stumbled across the fact that he is with the angels up above. Mike was an extremely intelligent individual, and I enjoyed listening to his nostalgic past experiences. I am heartbroken that when I said goodbye to move out of state, that I was also saying goodbye to my friend indefinitely. I know one thing for sure, Mike would give the shirt off his back to anyone who he knew was in need. He would even take food to some of his under privileged friends out of the goodness of his heart. I have spent many good times with Mike boating, or just having quiet nice dinners at his beautiful home. Though he is not with us in the physical world, he will always be with us in spirit. May he rest with the angels now. My sincerest condolences to Mike's family. May he finally have found the utmost peace!

March 7 at 2:26 PM



BR

Billy Root Aka William Pitt Root posted:

Having planned to come through Ft Myers beach for a few days between Christmas and New Years 2010-11, intending to spend much time with Michael. He was my last close buddy from Edison Elementary. I was puzzled not to hear back from him, despite my phone calls and e-mails. I even inquired at the newspaper (but didn't know his first name was Chesley so couldn't research effectively). At 3 AM this morning I stumbled across this obituary and I felt my heart would break. Our last correspondence ended, after a litany of recent deaths among his friends—in a sympathetic response to my litany sent to him— "but you and I are in it for the long haul." I smiled widely when I read that. It made me feel great. My childhood was interrupted by my father's violent death when I was 11 and my family's immediate move away from Florida; Michael and I, over the decades, kept up a connection with decade long gaps and a few very precious visits during which his wonderfully vivid memory and generous nature helped me fill in blanks that were invaluable. But my most recent trip came a few weeks late....What I saw in Mike was a very generous and candid nature eager to share his stock of recollections and his love of life, with an occasional acerbic aside. He wished one day to retire to Columbia, at least part time. And to buy a boat. I don't think he got to Columbia— a high risk place, anyway—but he did get the boat and issued a standing invitation for my wife, Pam, and I to go with him up the Caloosahatchee into the Everglades together. As kids we sold coconuts and mangoes and gladiolus to tourists at the intersection of Coconut Drive and MacGregor Blvd, still largely unchanged. We visited my father's farms weekends, rode horses, saw Saturday matinees at the Lee and Arcade and Edison theaters, played among the snake and spider infested roots of the already vast banyan tree in front of the old courthouse, fished for cat fish, Sheepsheads & sand sharks from the seawall at the foot of Coconut Drive, biked all over, fought like cats and dogs, made up, biked on. You have my love and grateful friendship forever, old friend. I have always missed you in my life, I always will. And I will never forget the wide grin on the freckled face of your childhood. [I have no idea how Mike died. Any sharing of what anyone knows of his last days would be appreciated: Bill, at wprpoet@mac.com.]

November 26 at 7:26 PM

JW

Joyce Walker posted:

Mikie is a very good friend to me. (I do not like past tense, because he is still my friend.) Imagine calling a man with his dignity Mikie, well I did. Whenever I needed his advise on class reunion data or computer, he was there to help me. He even tried candle making for me. With that thought, I too, will light a candle in his memory. Sincerely, Joyce Walker

January 3 at 2:43 PM



Tribute Wall

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Joan Bailey Grasser posted:

I would like to extend my condolences to Mike Perry's family. He will be missed by many and in my prayers as well as his family. He was helpful always, and kept us all up to date on our friends and former classmates. Although he may not be with us now, he is always in our memories. In prayer and sympathy, Joan Bailey

December 3 at 10:52 AM



Barbara Anderson Hill posted:

To the family of Mike Perry, Having had the pleasure of meeting many of you, I offer here my sincerest condolences to you all at this most difficult time. As a close friend of Mike's the past five years, I was shocked and saddened to learn of his passing. I will miss him, his candor and humor. He infused our FMHS class of 1959 with great new energy, connecting us together with reunions and updates. Mike is gone too soon. My prayers go to all of you.

December 1 at 11:36 AM



Martha & Jerry Williams posted:

We were so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. As former classmates with him we so appreciated all he did for the FMHS Class of 59. He will be missed. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his family and may they find comfort in happier memories of the past.

November 28 at 2:52 PM



Betty Kerberg Reynolds posted:

I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Mike Perry. Mike was a very gentle, kind man. He will be missed very much by the Class of 1959 which he had such a large part in keeping all of us in touch with one another. We appreciate all that Mike did for organizing our get-to-gethers, etc. May your soul rest in peace. In sympathy, Betty

November 27 at 1:11 PM



Tribute Wall

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Mei Mei Chan posted:

Dear family members, My deepest condolences on the loss of Mike Perry. He was among the first to reach out and welcome me into Fort Myers upon my arrival this year. Mike was gracious in sharing his historical knowledge and, with his typical candor, his opinions about how The News-Press can continue to improve. I took all those observations to heart, and will always value our interactions on behalf of our community. Yours most sincerely, Mei-Mei Chan

November 26 at 7:26 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Chesley by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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