



## JAMES DYKES

July 7, 2013

### Obituary of JAMES DYKES

James Ernest Dykes, age 75, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and

friend passed away peacefully on July 7, 2013. A 6th generation Floridian, Jim

was born in Umatilla, Florida in 1938, graduated from Umatilla High School in

1956, married his high school sweetheart, Roberta Yvonne Vaughn in 1958, and

graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Electrical Engineering

in 1962. To his last breath, Jim was a relentlessly passionate Gator through and

through.

Jim came from the humblest of beginnings, easily sharing that he grew up in a house without running water and never had a bed of his own. But because of his own drive, coupled with compassion, leadership, and intelligence, he was indeed a genuine "success story". He was honored in his profession with awards too numerous to list. During his long career he held leadership positions in several companies, including Radiation, Harris, General Electric, Philips North America and TSMC in Taiwan. His work took him to locales in Florida, California, North Carolina, and Texas, as well as overseas, but he returned to his Florida roots to retire, living both in Fort McCoy and St. Augustine.

One reason Jim enjoyed Florida was that he loved the water...boating and fishing

were his loves, second only to family and food, or maybe just second to family.

He and Yvonne never tired of having guests to their lake house where some form

of water activity was always happening, usually with Jim at the helm. Whether it

was calmly touring the lake in the late afternoon or captaining his boat, the

Arete, across ocean waves to the keys or islands, his heart was most happy on

the water. Every year the family enjoyed a vacation in the islands, always

ending with pictures of Jim holding up a big fish. Another family memory will

be Jim watching his other favorite sport---NASCAR, a true southern sport that

somehow enthralled this true southern gentleman.

It was fortunate in many ways that Jim captured the heart of Yvonne. Because of

his kindness, generosity, and gregariousness, she was destined to always have a

home full of friends that usually required a great deal of care and feeding; she

was well qualified for the job. To be at Jim's table was always a deliciously

joyful time, and he was quite definite in his requirements...he never ate

leftovers, hated broccoli and fennel, had an ever loving relationship with an occasional Spam sandwich, and every Sunday night had "the meal of kings"...which

he defined as steak, artichoke, and Caesar salad. He made an outstanding Caesar

salad and to this day, family members try (and try) to equal his recipe. He was also quoted as saying he never met a hamburger he didn't like. While in California he owned a small vineyard and developed quite an interest in wine, especially red, usually nightly.

Even though he was given the nickname "the General" by his daughter Meme, he was

known for his kindness and compassion. He was always a champion for others less

fortunate. He was a mentor to countless friends and colleagues, a supporter of

education through an endowment at University of Florida to provide scholarships

for several students every year for their entire college program, and a

consultant on many boards or directors long after he attempted (and flunked) retirement. In every sense of the word, he was able to give to others. Jim was the kind of person who drew people to him, he valued them and they were enriched by knowing him.

Jim is survived by his wife, Yvonne; sister, Pat Newsham (Dave), daughter Meme

Bernholz (Blake), daughter Kim Teegen (John) , granddaughter, Jennefer Teegen,

and grandson, Brandon Teegen

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the following in Jim's name:

Anglers for Conservation. <http://www.anglersforconservation.org/>. Online condolences can be made at [www.Beyersfuneralhome.com](http://www.Beyersfuneralhome.com). Beyers Funeral Home, Umatilla.

## Services

There are no services scheduled at this time.

# Tribute Wall

PR

“ Yvonne, I am sorry to have not kept up with you and Jim. I knew him at Harris, GE (California and North Carolina) and almost Signetics. When he ran Signetics, you graciously hosted my wife Stevie and I for dinner one evening in your home outside Los Gatos. My memories of those times always brings a smile.

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**Pete Reisinger** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ My manager at Radiation (Harris) reported to Jim and I always felt that Jim liked me for what I did for Harris. I kept in touch with him over the years and met him a few times while he was running Signetics. Even to this day, I consider him to be the best manager I have ever known or worked for. Despite his high positions at GE where he reported to Jack Welch, I could always get thru the secretary screen just by mentioning my name. His success never got to his head, a virtue extremely rare more so now. I will always have fond memories of Jim

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**Sujit Saha** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ I was very impressed with Jimmy's obituary. I never kept up with all his accomplishments. I had heard that he had a lot of physical problems. I married a foreigner, and we travel a great deal. At present, we are in Ireland where we come every summer to get out of the summer heat. It is the warmest Ireland we have spent in the last 10 years. My heart goes out to you in your loss.

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**Arlene Daniels** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ I shall have great moments to remember. Jim gave me the title of his "GEORGIA PEACH" We all grew up together as one small family in Umatilla. Jim and Yvonne were two of my "BESTIES" He will be missed by so many but we will all wrap our arms around him in heaven. He did his work on this journey and left knowing his job was complete. He dearly loved his family.

Nell Bennett - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ "In places high, in places low, and All places and people in between, He was a Man for All Seasons!" Ah, the memories--all good---of this leader of our Odessey, a dear friend. Although circumstances have limited our time together these last few years, we shall miss his infectious laugh, his love of fun, his kindness to friends, his sense of adventure. Albert & Alberta surely have tears in their eyes, as do we who loved him. A life well-lived and a man who dearly loved his family---who could ask for more? We'll see you later, Gator!

Jack & Carol Harrison - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ May God wrap his arms around you Yvonne as you have been such a devoted and caring wife. Jim was a true gentleman and he will be missed by many. So very sorry to hear of your loss of such a fine person.

Kai Long - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I hope James is up in heaven , met up with my brother Frank who graduated with him and they are fishing and having a good time...my condolences to the family....He was a good man.

Margaret Randall Bird - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Loved you General. You were a gentleman and a scholar. My memorials of you are of a man with an impeccable character, and an immense love of family. You were kind to my family and always treated me like a son. It is not a goodbye Jim, but a see you when. Every morning when I look out on the Mantanza Bay, I will think of you and what a difference you made in my life and in this God forsaken world. Jim, your truly are "On top of the world". Blessing to Yvonne and the Dykes family. See you in heaven JD, if the Lord grants me the honor to be with you. Daniel Simpson.*

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**Daniel Simpson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ **JAMES DYKES**

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October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM