



James W. Ramsburg

June 27, 1935 - January 18, 2021

James W. Ramsburg 85, of Estero died Monday, January 18, 2021 in Ft. Myers, FL. He was born on June 27, 1935 in Minneapolis, MN the only child of the late Walter V. and Ellen (Warren) Ramsburg. He had been a resident of Estero for the past 22 years coming from Minneapolis.

Mr. Ramsburg spent 50 years in the radio and advertising industry. His own lifetime fascination with radio began during WWII when he was a “latch-key kid” while his widowed mother worked as a bookkeeper. Home alone, the radio became his baby-sitter, mentor, and companion.

A product of the University of Minnesota School of Journalism, in the 1950s he started his radio career at WLOL-St. Paul followed by WDGY-Minneapolis and KWKY-Des Moines. He then worked at WPTR-Albany and KMBC-Kansas City. He eventually wound up as assistant program director and worked a weekend show during the “two-way” Talk format at KLAC in Los Angeles, CA. After leaving KLAC in 1968, Jim returned to his hometown of Minneapolis, to become program director at KSTP until 1974.

Upon leaving radio, he and his wife Patty founded a successful advertising agency, Ramsburg Advertising & Media Services (RAMS). Jim and Patty retired in 1998 and they split their time between homes in Balsum Lake, Wisconsin and Estero, Florida. Jim was also very active in the voiceover business.

Jim was inducted in the Minnesota Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He also wrote a book, Network Radio Ratings, 1932-53 and was a radio historian.

He is survived by his loving wife Patricia L. Ramsburg of Estero, FL; daughter, Tricia E. Ramsburg of Wilmington, NC; son, Todd M. Ramsburg and his wife, Lori of Eden Prairie, MN; two grandchildren, Alaina Johnson and James Todd Ramsburg and one great-grandson, Toren Johnson.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no services.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Comments



“ The Ramsburg family

I am so sorry to hear of you loss.

I had the opportunity to speak with Jim about a year ago and recall the old days at WPTR.

As a youngster living in Schenectady, NY, WPTR was my favorite radio station. Perry Young lived in the Schenectady Childrens Home, across the street from my home on Park Avenue. Perry had a part-time job answering the phones for the All Request Show hosted by Happy Jack MacNamee from, 6-9p.

On Fridays, Perry would work record hops with Boom Boom Brannigan and I was fortunate to be able to fill in for Perry....Perry paid me \$3 for the three-hour shift.

I was hooked on radio since I would answer the phones in Action Central where I could listen to the four police monitors anchored to the wall. The job ended in about 6 months and I was back listening to the radio, but with a lot of knowledge about the workings and staff of WPTR.

I recall one Halloween evening when the "Good Guys" were broadcasting from an alleged haunted house in Niskayuna. Suddenly they announced that Jim Ramsburg was missing....It turned into a contest.. Who could find Jim Ramsburg. This was around 1963-65?

Clues were given on the radio.

At one point, Jim was on a two-way radio...I began to put the clues together...he was driving a company car....and Perry Samuel's Thunderbird was missing from the WPTR lot.

The clues indicated Jim was headed back to the area...I camped out on Route 7 in Latham and soon spotted the T-Bird....made a quick U-turn and raced up along side the car shouting.....".PTRYou Jim Ramsburg!"

I won a couple of hundred dollars.....

After two years as a cost analyst for GE-Schenectady...I convinced WPTR's news director Bob Lawson to give me a job as a news reporter.

.I made it and some of that credit goes to Jim Ramsburg.

Doug Myers (Horstmyer)
Director, Public Affairs
Albany International Airport
Albany, NY



“ In September 1998, we met Patty and Jim at the front door to the Clubhouse at Marsh Landing. They had closed on the purchase of their condo earlier in the day and were trying to find out if their code worked so they could get into the clubhouse. We had signed a purchase and sales agreement that day for a villa and wanted to look around the clubhouse. During our conversation, we found out that we had a lot in common. We both owned houses on a lake, and Jim and Patty had sold their house in Minneapolis and all that goes with "downsizing." We still had that work ahead of us.

When we moved into our condo in November, we renewed acquaintances with Patty and Jim at a cocktail party that was sponsored by the developer. When the developer asked the residents to patrol the property from 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. each night, Jim and Paul teamed up to drive the golf cart around the neighborhood, knocking on doors to let the owners know that their garage door was up, telling Estero High School students that they had to leave the pool and picnic area i.e. the property, and to give the Sheriff's deputy who was stationed at the Clubhouse an update of of "patrol." Many times during our patrol, we would see the eyes of an alligator in a pond "checking us out." We had a lot of fun and a lot of great conversations.

After we moved from Marsh Landing in 2006, we still kept in touch with Patty and Jim. Paul was a recipient of Jim's many e-mails about the "yesteryears" of radio. They were always very informative and brought back many memories of when we listened to the radio when we were kids.

Patty and family, we are very sorry for your loss and extend out deepest sympathy.

God Bless!

Mary and Paul Powers

Paul Powers - January 25, 2021 at 03:07 PM



“ Jim was on the air with my stations with a opening fishing weekend in Northern Minnesota when he was with KSTP Radio. We worked together on the Minnesota broadcasters board for years He was a treasure.

Ed De La Hunt

Ed De La Hunt - January 23, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ Believe I first met Jim in the early 1970's and we hit it off right away... What a great guy with a great voice.. He found me some people and sold me jingles, plus the agency business later. He enjoyed telling a story about his first weekend announcer job at KNUJ Radio in New Ulm, Minnesota. KNUJ played polka music. One Saturday, as his shift ended, he segued from a Whoopee John polka to Erroll Garner's "Misty" dedicating it to his girlfriend Patti. Unfortunately the Manager was listening and that was the end of Jim on KNUJ. But it worked out well, he got Patricia. His dulcet tone and sense of humor will be missed.

Paul Hedberg

Paul Hedberg - January 23, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ We remember Jim for his wonderful smile, wry sense of humor and wonderful voice. He was a good friend and we shall miss him greatly.
Dot and Dan Dronkers

Dorothy Dronkers - January 22, 2021 at 09:54 AM