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Subject: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sat, 29 Aug 2009 21:09:03 GMT

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My Dad died Thursday at 5:30pm. He was out working in his yard, because he liked keeping it nicely landscaped. He finished up, came inside, felt light of breath, and died. Mom comforted him with a damp cool towel, and held him as he passed.

In the 1950's, Dad loved automobiles. He knew every make and model by sight. In high school, he dated my Mom, whose family owned the Chrysler/Plymouth dealership (back then, also Studebaker and Packard). She was the perfect girl for him.

Naturally, Dad worked in the car business too, early on in the parts department at Volkswagen dealerships in Texas and Oklahoma. He worked his way up into management and eventually to being General Manager and partner, owning part of the business. He opened the first real Porsche dealership in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1972.

Dad's dealership, Precision Imports, was really something. It had the most stylish showroom and the coolest cars. The 1970's were a time when German automobiles were becoming more and more powerful. In 1976, Porsche introduced the now famous Turbo Carrera. Peter Gregg (car number 59, the Brumos Porsche almost every model replicates) was a personal friend and we hung out in the pit when he ran at Hallett. Dad's picture was in Time Magazine, as he was named one of the top dealers in the country. These were heady times.

What is probably most impressive about my Dad is even when his career was approaching its Zenith, he never lost his approachability or his genuine bond with life-long friends and family. When my high school buddies went to get their first car, Dad was usually the one to get it for them. Cars are a sort of passage, from boy to man, and he knew how important that was. Most of us got our first car and some of us even got our first jobs from him. He put wheels under us so we could get to school, to our first jobs and on ours first dates. Dad took care of us.

Most of all, the thing I'll miss most is the cookouts, the knowing that when I got to Mom and Dad's house every few weeks or so, Dad would be out on the porch cooking on the grill. I won't ever see him standing on the porch like that again. We spoke on the phone usually at least once a week and got together at least once a month. We were buddies. He was an impressive man and all that, but the thing I'll miss most is the simple stuff. I'll just miss seeing him.

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sat, 29 Aug 2009 21:28:55 GMT

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Sorry for your loss, I know exactly how you feel.

Best wishes,

Russellc

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [Psychoacoustic](#) on Sat, 29 Aug 2009 22:03:25 GMT

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Wayne, that was a beautiful eulogy of an amazing life. Thank you for sharing it with us.

"We were buddies". The simple stuff is usually the most profound, isn't it?

You'll 'see' your Dad again, often and in many different forms. Someone who makes up such a big part of our own soul never dies.

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [Norris Wilson](#) on Sun, 30 Aug 2009 03:19:32 GMT

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Wayne,

I am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful Father that I know you loved dearly. I lost my Father in 1997 after many years of suffering from a heart disease.

I am happy that your Father passed quickly and did not have long suffering.

I hold on to the hope that I will be reunited with my Father some day.

Until then, I keep trying to live life like I mean it. And cherish all of the important lessons that he taught me along the way.

We have our memories.

Love

Norris

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [aikenjt](#) on Sun, 30 Aug 2009 04:40:53 GMT

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Hi Wayne,

I'm so sorry to hear the news of your father's passing. You and yours are in my prayers.

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Sincerely,  
Jeff Aiken

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [Wayne-o](#) on Sun, 30 Aug 2009 04:59:42 GMT  
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Same here God be with you and your family.

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [Matts](#) on Sun, 30 Aug 2009 14:50:49 GMT  
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Wayne, my deepest condolences. It sounds like your Dad was a great man and you had a wonderful relationship with him! You'll always have those memories to cherish. At least he avoided traumatic suffering and extended illness, which is a blessing. I lost my Dad 20 yrs ago this month. After awhile the grief becomes more balanced with all the good memories, but it's still a void and I still miss him a lot. Take especially good care of yourself and your loved ones during this time. Matts

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [Bill Epstein](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 00:13:33 GMT  
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I'm filled with sorrow at the loss of your father but know your family and friends will see you through because, like you paint your dad, you're a guy people love.

Bill

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [biglaz](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 02:09:09 GMT  
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Wayne,

I am wishing you and your family my deepest condolences.

Robert

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

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Posted by [SteveBrown](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 13:29:16 GMT

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Wayne, very sorry to hear about your loss! If there's anything I can do to help, just let me know.

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [Barryso](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 14:29:33 GMT

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Hi Wayne,

Sorry about losing your dad. He was a nice man.

I had a chance to meet him a few times during the audio shows and he was a good guy. He seemed pretty proud of you, too.

Be well,  
Barry

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [spkrman57](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 16:45:31 GMT

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Wayne,

I will keep your Dad and family in my thoughts and prayers.

Regards, Ron

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham

Posted by [GarlandB](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 17:24:20 GMT

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Wayne,

My sympathy goes out to you on your loss. and yes, I can understand how you feel about losing your Dad. Mine passed away a few years back and over the years it is always the small reminders that are the most poignant. My dad was into DIY audio when I was a boy although he pretty much stopped doing it after I grew up and moved out. Still, after inheriting all his old post war vintage audio manuals and heathkit stuff, I am often suddenly hit with the immediate pang of regret and sense of loss just when my eyes pass over one of his old books or maybe spot one of his old musty parts in my parts bins. It is the little things that really stand out in the memory of the long years of one's life .

Yours truly,  
Garland

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [reguax](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 17:53:26 GMT  
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Wayne,

Sounds like your father had an awesome life and I'm sure he was a good father. May your memories be your comfort.

You Have My Deepest Sympathy,

Ricardo

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [feket663](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 19:36:12 GMT  
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Wayne!

I am wishing you and your family my deepest condolences.

Istvan

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [doucanoe](#) on Mon, 31 Aug 2009 23:45:10 GMT  
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I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your father, Wayne.

My condolences to you and yours.

RC

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [hoerath7](#) on Tue, 01 Sep 2009 02:09:51 GMT  
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so sorry to hear of your loss.

God bless

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [Jump](#) on Tue, 01 Sep 2009 17:34:15 GMT  
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Hi Wayne,

I'm very sorry for your loss.  
My deepest condolences to you and your family.

Giampiero

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [Shane](#) on Tue, 01 Sep 2009 21:03:10 GMT  
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Wayne,

So sorry to hear of your loss. Although I've not lost my Dad or step-dad, I know all too well what it's like to lose a family member. Our thought's and prayers go out to you my friend. May your heart find the peace it deserves in this trying time.

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Subject: Re: Jimmy Ray Parham  
Posted by [Duke](#) on Wed, 02 Sep 2009 05:55:25 GMT  
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So sorry to hear about your Dad's sudden passing. I hope your mom is okay. Sounds like your father was a rare and wonderful man who touched and bettered the lives of many people all around himself - family, friends, and strangers - all while doing something that he truly loved. Somehow he even passed that on to his son.

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