



Jerry Holley

October 30, 1938 - September 2, 2010

Jerry Holley, age 71, of Topeka, passed away Aug. 30, 2010 at a Topeka hospital. Jerry was born in the heart of the Missouri Ozarks in Warsaw, Missouri, on October 30, 1938. He grew up in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, a small town just to the south of Kansas City, Missouri. He attended Pleasant Hill Elementary and High Schools. He holds a BA Degree in Communications and Business from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. Jerry's professional career as a broadcaster began early in his life. Throughout his high school and college years, Jerry was employed by KMBC-TV in Kansas City, Missouri, KMOS-TV, Sedalia, Missouri, KOFO Radio, Ottawa, Kansas, and KLWN Radio, Lawrence, Kansas, and during his college years he built and operated a wired-wireless campus radio station at Baker University. The station has since become an FM Educational Station. Jerry joined the WIBW Stations in June of 1960 as a television booth announcer. In 1961, he became Promotion Manager of WIBW-TV. In 1962 he assumed the position of General Manager of the Stauffer Communications Station, KSEK Radio in Pittsburg, Kansas. In 1964 he returned to Topeka to manage WIBW AM/FM and in 1969 became General Manager of WIBW-TV. On May 20, 1977, he was elected, by the Board of Directors of Stauffer Communications Inc., to the position of Vice-President-Broadcast Division for the company. Jerry served on the Board of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters for fifteen years and served as President of the association in 1973-74. Jerry is one of five persons who founded the All-American Network and served for three years as its president.

The network produced and televised the Triple Crown of Quarter Horse Racing for eight years to millions of fans coast to coast. In 1983, he was elected to the Chairmanship of the Television Board of Directors of the National Association of Broadcasters, Washington D.C. and was re-elected in 1984 for a second term. In 1982, Jerry received the "Grover Cobb Award" from the University of Kansas for outstanding broadcasting service and received the Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. He was awarded the Alumni Citation from Baker University in 1985 for his outstanding service to his Alma Mater in his chosen field of Broadcasting. In 2001 he was named to the Kansas Broadcast "Hall of Fame". A devoted Topekan and Kansan Jerry served as part of civic organizations in Topeka and throughout the state of Kansas for his entire adult life. Just a few of the capacities in which he served his community include: Chairman of Board of Trustees of Baker University; Chairman of the MTA Board; President of the Downtown Topeka Rotary Club; Vice-Chairman of the Kidney Foundation of Kansas and Western Missouri; Adjunct Professor of Broadcasting at Washburn University; and Secretary of the Kansas High School Rodeo Association. Jerry also had a long time association with the 190th Air Refueling Group; a Topeka based Air National Guard Unit. He produced television news programs covering the units deployments to Japan and Korea and in 1990 traveled with the 190th to Saudi Arabia to report on the 1991 Gulf War. Following his retirement from broadcasting Jerry became a Radio-Television inspector for the Federal Communications Commission, served as the Executive Director of the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field in Topeka, as the Executive Director of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service and at the time of his death was Assistant Adjutant with the Kansas Department of the American Legion. He also established the Holley Museum of Military History located at the Ramada Hotel and convention Center in downtown Topeka. The Museum contains his personal collection of over four thousand items and displays of military history from the Battle of Trafalgar to the War for Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Survivors include his wife Jane, Topeka;

his daughter, Pamela (Holley) Heinonen and her husband Kevin and children Michael and Eric; his son, CDR Mark Holley, USN and his wife Pia and children Emma and Annie and his mother Beulah Holley, Pleasant Hill MO. Family will greet friends Thurs. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka KS 66614 from 5-7 p.m. A Memorial Service will be Fri. at 1 p.m. at Grace Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Baker University sent to the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerry Holley*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *It saddens me and many others here in Hawaii who got to know Jerry from Hawaii's association with the CRDTS organization over the years. I worked closely with Jerry for several years arranging the dental exam at the Navy base in Pearl Harbor. Jerry and I frequently communicated not only about the exam but current events, his family and usually the military. He often spoke of how proud he was of Mark and his accomplishments and outstanding service in the Navy. Jerry was a true American patriot who loved our country. I won't forget the dinner we had together in Hawaii at the top of the Ilikai hotel where I met Jane that night and other CRDTS personnel for the first time. Jerry was a total gentleman and class human being. My prayers and aloha are with Jerry and the entire Holley ohana.*

CAPT Bob Sherman, USN (ret) - September 02, 2010 at 10:23 PM



“ *From reading Jerry's obituary I see he used the talents God gave him to the fullest extent. Jerry and I were classmates in Pleasant Hill for 12 yrs. Our mothers were on the park board together and our paths crossed in many ways. It is sad his great energy has gone. I wish all the family condolences and may God give you strength and help fill the void of Jerry's passing. The Lord Be With You. Nancy Spriggs*

Nancy Spriggs - September 02, 2010 at 08:08 PM

NB

“ To the Holley Family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Jerry and I were classmates in Pleasant Hill and I am sorry I was not privileged to visit with him these past years. I remember so many fun times during high school. I pray that you will find comfort in all the happy memories you shared. Nancy Wubbenhorst Black

Nancy (Wubbenhorst) Black - September 02, 2010 at 07:58 PM

TF

“ We are shocked and terribly saddened by your sudden and tragic loss. Mr. Holley was such a lively and energetic man that it is hard to fathom his having left us. We feel lucky, though, to have had the privilege to know him and to have shared such happy moments with him as Mark and Pia's wedding in Sweden and his frequent holiday visits to his grandchildren in Spain and Annapolis. The memory which will stick with us the most, though, will probably be the experience of watching a KU Final Four game with him in Mark and Pia's living room as he conducted a running dialogue with the television. We could not imagine a more rabid and die-hard KU fan. Mr. Holley clearly lived his life enthusiastically on all levels and made no secret of the love and pride he had for his entire family. His life was, clearly, one that was well-lived, with the only regret being that it was cut off way too short.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. God bless Jerry Holley and God bless you all.

The Nilsen Family - September 02, 2010 at 06:19 PM

JD

“ Sept 1, 2010

Dear Jane and family;

I remember the first time I met you both was over to Mary and Bob Smiths. (Seems like before your children were born). Then, in the last month or so we saw you both at Sunny Street Cafe. Time passes so quickly. We know you all have wonderful memories of Jerry. Thank you sharing him with so many people.

Words can say very little at a time like this, but knowing people care and are thinking of you, maybe helps. We hope so Please accept our sympathy on the loss of Jerry.

Sincerely,

Don and Jackie Campbell Petersen

Jackie Campbell Petersen and Don - September 02, 2010 at 05:23 PM

LM

“ *Janie, What a jolt to hear Jerry is gone. Our friendship started in 1940 as our parents were good friends. We grew up together with Jerry showing me the ropes along the way. He wanted me to attend Baker and on his encouragement I did for two years. We only have few childhood friends and I will miss him. I can relate to your grief. With God's help it will pass. Let's talk soon. Friends always, Larry*

Larry McKean - September 02, 2010 at 11:18 AM

JR

“ *We were so shocked to hear of Jerry's passing. We remember the good ole Baker days when we all first knew each other. Janie and family, we send our sympathy and love, The Rowes*

Jim and Linda Rowe - September 02, 2010 at 11:09 AM

DD

“ To Jerry's Family. Jerry has been in my mind and my heart ever since we meet in 1999 at Absolute Fitness. He was a kind and gentle soul with lots of enthusiasm for life. His passing was a shock. You are in my prayers at this time. He will never be forgotten. Darla Dale

Darla Dale - September 01, 2010 at 06:48 PM

AM

“ Dear Mark and the Holley family, My heart goes out to you in this terrible time, I am deeply sorry for your loss. I hope there is comfort to be found in the family memories and all of the good times you had. My thoughts are with you.

Amy (Hanna) Munson - September 01, 2010 at 12:56 PM

BB

“ I was so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. Jerry and I shared many broadcasting stories when he was at WIBW and I at KAYS TV in Hays. I can't count the number of times I dialed his number to get his advice and counsel. He was always most kind with his help on broadcast matters. I also enjoyed spending time with him at broadcast meetings around the country. He was a great guy and will be greatly missed.

Bernie Brown - September 01, 2010 at 11:40 AM

MJ

“ Jane and Family,
My memories of Jerry will be the stories he told. When you listened to his stories you knew that he loved life and his family. Jerry will be missed. May you find peace and comfort in your memories.

Michelle Johnston - September 01, 2010 at 10:08 AM

SB

“ Jane and family, I am so sorry for your loss of Jerry. I had the opportunity to meet him at his home at the Ramada as well as a few functions of the American Legion. We will miss a great patriot!

Steve "Buddha" Blake - September 01, 2010 at 12:36 AM

DM

“ Aunt Jane, Pam and Mark:

I am so sorry for your (and our) loss. I look daily at the last picture I have of Uncle Jerry from last summers anniversary party and often think about that "giant" and the man sitting in the back seat of my car teaching me to drive with an umbrella to hit me when I did something wrong.

Please know, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time and through all of your grieving.

Donna Quellhorst Abd El Malak - August 31, 2010 at 05:50 PM

JC

“ Dear Holley family,
We are just ordinary folk out here in TV land, buy did meet Jerry several times in person. I can tell you that he never met a stranger and we always enjoyed visting with him. We enjoyed having him on our TV also. May God bless you and keep you in this time of loss. Thank you for sharing him all of these years.
Joe & Pauline Conley

Joe & Pauline Conley - August 31, 2010 at 03:05 PM

JC

“ Dear Holley family,
We are just ordinary folk out here in TV land, but did meet Jerry several times in person. I can tell you that he never met a stranger and we always enjoyed visiting with him. We enjoyed having him on our TV also. May God bless you and keep you in this time of loss. Thank you for sharing him all of these years.
Joe & Pauline Conley

Joe & Pauline Conley - August 31, 2010 at 03:03 PM

BF

“ JANE/PAM/MARK: To say that I am sorry to hear of Jerry's passing is not even close to the feelings I have for all of you. You know that Jerry and I were close friends when we were competitors in Topeka radio, even sharing charter air trips to football/basketball broadcasts. To show his dedication to his profession he made it possible for me to join Stauffer Communications after 20+ years with another company, and it turned out to be the best job I ever had. We were peers at the end of my career, but I always held Jerry in high esteem. We just plain liked each other! I'll miss him very much.

Bob FrommeFROMMEBP@MSN.COM - August 31, 2010 at 12:16 PM

CE

“ Jane, I am sorry for your loss. May our Heavenly Father comfort you and keep all the happy memories near.

Coralee Evans - August 31, 2010 at 11:41 AM

JW

“ Dear Jane and Family, I was saddened to learn of Jerry's passing. I am praying that God is surrounding you with his loving arms and giving you the peace, comfort, strength, and support you need to make it through this difficult time and in the days and weeks ahead. Love and prayers.

Janet Bond Wolken - August 31, 2010 at 10:17 AM

TM

“ Dear families of jerry. I worked with Jerry at WIBW. I was the Art Director, and Jerry was always nice to me and other people he worked with. I am saddened by his passing. God Bless!

Tom McPeak - August 31, 2010 at 10:05 AM

CM

“ What a nice man....Jerry was always so friendly when he visited Porterfield's. Please accept my sympathy and prayers.

Cheryl McCrite - August 31, 2010 at 10:01 AM

HB

“ Dear Jane, Pam & Mark,

We are so glad we got to come to Aunt Beulah's 100th birthday! Although Jerry and I didn't see each other very often, we always were there for each other and always made it to the other family's special occasions. Jerry and I grew up together and I have many happy memories of our young life together. Our prayers are with you all in this time of sadness. We love you. Holley and Ed Brundick

Holley & Ed Brundick - August 31, 2010 at 09:34 AM

CW

“ Mark,

All of us at the NPC Office of Legal Counsel are sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Very respectfully,

Tom

CDR Tom Welsh - August 31, 2010 at 08:11 AM

CF

“ Jane and family,

We are so sad to hear of Jerry's passing. We are praying for God's love and comfort for you at this time. Carol Fenton

Carol Fenton - August 30, 2010 at 06:06 PM

JD

“ *I had the great pleasure of working with Jerry on the NAB Board of Directors. He took me under his wing several times to offer advice and counsel when I first came to the board representing Kansas and Missouri. When he was in Washington, he always came by to see how I was doing. His sense of humor, laugh, leadership and friendship will be missed. My deepest condolences to his family and friends who will miss him greatly.*

*John David, EVP/Radio
National Association of Broadcasters*

John David - August 30, 2010 at 05:44 PM

BP

“ *How sad to lose a great broadcaster and friend.*

God bless his family.

Bill Poole - August 30, 2010 at 05:39 PM

TM

“ *To Pam, and the rest of the Holley family, I am so sorry for your loss. Jerry was a wonderful family man, a committed Topekan, and just a nice person. Please accept my condolences.*

Tori Williams Mason - August 30, 2010 at 05:28 PM

SL

“ *I remember Jerry with great fondness. He sat up in "the big office" during much of my time at WIBW-TV and was always very supportive of the news operation. He cared deeply that the news was reported accurately and that people were treated fairly. Truly a Topeka broadcasting giant, Jerry made our community a better place. So sorry to hear of his passing.*

Sally Baltes Lunsford - August 30, 2010 at 05:19 PM

JF

“ *Jerry was a wonderful person and a valuable, caring, and considerate member of the Topeka and the Veterans' community. Words cannot express the loss we feel at Jerry's passing.*

Jack Fowler - August 30, 2010 at 04:57 PM