



James R. Hurley

January 29, 1932 - June 17, 2023

A Family Man & Public Servant
listener, gracious, compassionate, and patient

Dear Friend,

I write this a week after the passing of a great man, mentor, and friend. In fact I would say his actions likely enabled me to define my life's work. That man is the Honorable Senator James "Jim" Hurley.

In the mid-eighties, as commodore of the Union Lake Sailing and Tennis Club, I testified for the maintenance and rebuilding of the Union Lake Dam and spillway and the creation of a Wildlife Management Area. Jim gave me the confidence and support to speak. Had things gone differently anglers, boaters, and sailors would not have a lake nor would the public and wildlife have access to this preserved habitat to utilize and enjoy.

I believe I've known Jim since I was 10 years old. At that point he would have been 34 and he would already have been a freeholder. I didn't even know what a freeholder was, but I knew Jim. Everyone knew Jim, and I never heard people say anything but nice things about him and his wife Wally. Jim was also a well-respected Senator. You can read about his career using this link to the New Jersey Globe - <https://newjerseyglobe.com/section-2/jim-hurley-senate-and-assembly-minority-leader-dies-at-91/>.

In 1988 I asked Jim if he would suggest, to the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, that I be placed on the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee. He asked me why I wanted to serve, and then he listened. He said he would be happy to support my quest.

Ultimately, I was selected as a Committee Member representing a nonprofit organization. I have enjoyed my service since 1988, and in fact for 18 of those years I served as chair. Soon I will be retired from the Committee, because a number of years ago the Committee jointly decided it would be wise to institute term limits. However, this position has taught me a great deal and has been a tremendous source of personal interest and satisfaction. My life's chosen path has not always been simple, but it has been rewarding, and Jim has helped me significantly along the way.

My story is important because I'm the rule and not the exception – Jim was a public servant who served his community and not himself. He was a listener who put his service, family, and faith first. This is not glib rhetoric; Jim was the real deal – genuine.

Despite our long friendship and the fact that Jim and Wally were members of CU, as with any funeral service I always learn things about the departed that I didn't already know. Jim was an alumnus of the University of North Carolina and a major sports fan, especially of basketball. In fact daughter Leslie did a Tarheel cheer in his honor at his memorial service. He was a man surrounded by his women, a wife and three daughters. Leslie described them as the “crying family.” I knew that both Leslie and Wally would cry about anything sentimental, sad or happy. In fact when Peter gave Wally a vase Jim teased, “Now she is going to cry.” And he was right. I did not realize that Jim was a crier too, but I did know he was very compassionate.

There were lots of things I did know. He was a wildlife watcher, liked candlelight dinners, and enjoyed looking sharp. He was always finding projects for his daughter Leslie. I think a number of these undertakings derived from Jim's wife Wally's deeds and counsel. At Easter they distributed homemade chocolate eggs. I'm not sure when Irish potato candies were distributed - St. Patrick's Day, I suppose. I just remember enjoying them.

Jim's life revolved around family. Every day he made breakfast in bed for Wally, his wife of 70 years. She passed away eight months before him. They were an extraordinary loving couple who shared everything together, from the office to play.

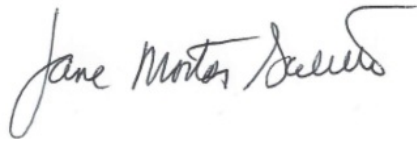
Robert Friant, whom Jim mentored and who became a close confidant, shared stories about their long friendship. He called out Jim's ability to listen and to be compassionate, patient, and gracious, and related that he respected others and showed them dignity.

I never saw or heard Jim say anything that was not mannerly. He could tease, but was never hurtful.

Above all else Jim valued his family. Robert Friant relayed that Jim considered them to be his greatest legacy. He is survived by three daughters: Leslie Hurley (Robert Hamilton) of Millville, Jamie Weitzel (Paul) of Philadelphia, and Kerri Fox (David) of Randolph; seven grandchildren: Emily Kimble (Ian), Xan Zimatore (Joe), Hurley Fox (Brittin), Mack Fox (Jenny), Paris, Nico and Zeke Fox, and two great grandchildren, Leo and Frankie Zimatore. Indeed a fine legacy. Our condolences go out to all of them on the loss of a great dad, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather.

I speak for many when I say that my life was enriched by having known Jim and Wally.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

James R. Hurley

January 29, 1932 - June 17, 2023

Obituary -

James Richardson “Jim” Hurley, of Millville who represented Cumberland County in the First Legislative District for more than 20 years and has devoted his life to community service passed away early Saturday morning June 17, 2023 at his home. He was 91.

Mr. Hurley was recognized for his dedicated work representing the people of his district with integrity, dedication and professionalism — supporting education, law enforcement, mental health, business and the environment in our local and regional communities — making them a better place to live for all residents through his leadership, volunteerism and advocacy.

Born in Seaford, DE on January 29, 1932, Jim was the beloved husband of Wally Reed Hurley, who predeceased him in December of 2022 and the son of the late Victor E. and Annabel Jarman Hurley. He lived most of his years in Millville, where he dedicated his life to his political career, community service, family, church life and a multitude of non-profit organization missions.

A Republican and a staunch defender of South Jersey, he fought for reductions in ocean pollution, long-term funding of transportation and beach protection for the Jersey shore and help for counties to deal with solid waste issues. He was instrumental in the extension of Route 55, building of Route 347, major Garden State Parkway improvements and legislation establishing Urban Enterprise Zones. He had opposed the creation of the state income tax as an assemblyman and spent his career as a cautious budget watchdog.

Mr. Hurley began his political career in 1966 when he was elected to the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders at age 34. He was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1967 and served in that position from 1968 to 1982, both as Minority and Majority Leader. Hurley served in the New Jersey Senate from 1982 to 1990 and for a time as Senate Minority Leader. His accomplishments in the legislature were many.

In 1990, he was appointed to the New Jersey Casino Control Commission, serving through 2002 and was Chairman from 1998 to 2002. During this time his involvement with government issues along with his commitment to his constituents made a hugely

positive impact in the prosperity of southern New Jersey.

Beyond public office, Jim had an advertising and public relations firm, James R. Hurley Associates, but throughout his career dedicated much of his life to helping the community and his church. He established the non-profit Affordable Homes of Millville Ecumenical (AHOME) to assist families with limited means in achieving home ownership. In addition, he served on the board of directors of the Millville Rescue Squad for more than 20 years, was the director of Millville United Fund, helped to raise money for the Millville Hospital and YMCA and was a member of the board of trustees of The Guidance Center, a county mental health agency, since 2011. Jim was honored by The Guidance Center as its Mental Health Distinguished Community Leader in 2020.

He served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Jim went on to work in radio and television, taught English at Millville High School and was vice president and director of public relations for Millville National Bank. Throughout his life, he was devoted to his faith — serving as clerk of session, deacon and elder — and also taught adult and youth church school classes. Jim and his wife, Wally, were members of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton, where he served on the board of trustees.

Jim was a member and/or officer of numerous other community organizations including, Millville Kiwanis, the local YMCA, the Millville Chamber of Commerce, United Way and the Millville Jaycees, among many others and served on the Millville Industrial Commission. For his contributions, the Industrial Park in Millville was named in his honor.

Predeceased by his wife of nearly 70 years, he is survived by three daughters, Leslie Hurley (Robert Hamilton) of Millville, Jamie Weitzel (Paul) of Philadelphia and Kerri Fox (David) of Randolph, seven grandchildren, Emily Kimble (Ian), Xan Zimatore (Joe), Hurley Fox (Brittin), Mack Fox (Jenny), Paris, Nico, and Zeke Fox, and two great grandchildren, Leo and Frankie Zimatore. Jim was predeceased by all five of his siblings.

A “Celebrate the Life of Jim Hurley” service was held on June 21st at the First Presbyterian Church in Bridgeton.

Burial with military honors took place privately where Jim was laid to rest next to his beloved wife, Wally, at Broad Street Cemetery in Bridgeton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested in Mr. Hurley’s memory to the Cumberland County Guidance Center, PO Box 808, Millville, NJ 08332 or to arminarm.org (a food distribution center where Jim’s son-in-law, David, is Executive Director which provides food, housing and work for those in Mercer County).

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www.CUMauriceRiver.org

