

# Jerrold James Aitken, Janesville, WI (1944 - 2013)



July 4, 1944 - June 13, 2013

Jerrold James Aitken, 68, of Janesville, formerly of Bangkok, Thailand, passed away on June 13, 2013, at Mercy Hospital & Trauma Center in Janesville. While fireworks exploded in the sky over Washington, DC, on a hot July 4th in 1944, young adoptive parents, James and Dorothy Aitken first glimpsed a beautiful blond, blue-eyed baby boy, who immediately stole their hearts. Jerry spent his early life in Switzerland, and Uruguay, where he became fluent in three of ultimately seven languages and where he began his life long quest for knowledge. Graduating from Pacific Union College, in California, with a degree in Theology, led him to become an ordained Minister, to complete a Masters of Div. degree, serve as a missionary in Thailand, teach Religion, and then to become a doctoral student in Theology at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI.

A desire to help the Cambodian refugees fleeing the Pol Pot regime sent Jerry and his family overseas again in 1978. He established Projects Asia Inc. and coordinated numerous humanitarian aid projects in the UN refugee camps along the Thai border. From 1987-2004, he worked in Bangkok, Thailand, as a philanthropist and entrepreneur. In his spare time, he enjoyed taking postgraduate classes in Human Rights and attending film festivals. He derived the most enjoyment from family and was always known for his creative and outgoing personality. In 2004, Jerry, his wife, Chawee; daughter, Pepper; and son, Jayson, moved to Janesville, where they established the family business, Y.O.T.M. Tree Care Inc. He loved children, and during the school year, he served as a school bus driver for the Van Galder Bus Company.

Jerry will be greatly missed by his wife, Chawee of Janesville; (formerly of Bangkok Thailand); his children: Jay (Jill) Aitken of Illinois, Jolene (John) Roosenberg of New York, Julia (AJ) O'Carey of Michigan, Pepper Aitken and Jayson Aitken of Wisconsin; his brother, John (Harryette) Aitken of California; his sister, Judi (Olaf) Falsnes of NWT Canada; and his grandchildren: Ayewin, Josselyn, Yan, John III and Joelle of New York; Kaila of Michigan, Axel of Illinois; and all those who knew and loved him. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, James Julius and Dorothy (Lockwood) Aitken; and a brother, Ronald James Aitken. A Memorial Service will be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, 2013, in the GAZEBO GARDEN AT ROTARY BOTANICAL GARDENS, Janesville.