

James (Jimmy) Leon Lane (Armstrong 1948 – 1951)

To us all known as Jim, Jimmy, James, Dad, Pa, Grandpa and when in Winsome's good books - Jamie, he has left a loving legacy for which he will always be remembered. Whether family, friend or colleague we looked up to him with the utmost love and respect. We sought his council, his love, his encouragement and his support. He was a father figure to us all!

Dad was both a great and a good man. His greatness - revealed through his commitment and belief to unreservedly serve and help others no matter from what walk of life they came. His goodness - displayed through his love and friendship, his compassion and understanding, and for the sound advice and unfailing support he gave.

We look back on Dad's long life and can only be in awe at what he achieved. He left his mark at St Andrew's College and Oxford University, excelling in whatever he set out to do. He had an unfaltering love for his old school, St Andrew's College in Grahamstown, and took great pride in seeing his boys, Chris, Richard and Ants, and grandsons follow in his footsteps. Through him and because of him, there continues to be a strong bond between the Lane Family and College. I understand the school flag will be flown at half-mast today.

Dad always wanted to be a doctor, to follow in his father's footsteps as an ENT surgeon. He commenced his academic career by reading for his degree at Oxford University. It was here and at Guys Hospital, London where he developed the knowledge, the skills and the values that were to shape the rest of his life.

It was at a medical ball in London, that he met this beautiful girl, Winsome from far off New Zealand. After nearly 55yrs of marriage, Mum and Dad can look back with pride and joy on what they as a team have achieved. Without their love and support we would not be the happy and loving family we are today.

Dad was renowned within the South African ENT fraternity. As a surgeon he was dedicated and principled in what he set out to achieve and was well known and respected in Port Elizabeth and the eastern province of South Africa. He was instrumental in setting up the head and neck cancer clinic, providing a valuable service to the eastern province community.

In later years, Dad was often approached by former patients who thanked him for the good work he had performed on them and the

positive changes he had made to their lives. As we all know, one of Dad's great attributes was his ability to listen with interest and chat to anyone, anywhere - whether it be a patient, a friend or the counter girl! On many occasions family members would wait patiently, I might add with some frustration, while Dad chatted away. This ability to engage 100% with whomever he was talking to demonstrates who he was and how he gave of himself and his time to anyone and everyone who came into his life.

Dad was a family man through and through, giving of his time and love to each and every family member. However, he also managed to find the time to support one additional family member – that being Todd Jobela a young African teenager who came into the Lane family household working as a gardener in 1970's apartheid South Africa. Testament to Dad and his belief in what was morally right, he undertook to help the then young man obtain an education. He supported Todd throughout his schooling, teacher's college and eventually university, where he obtained a degree with honors . Today Todd is principal of a sizeable school in Port Elizabeth and to this day he calls Jim and Winsome - Mum and Dad. There is no better testament to Dad's sense of justice and goodwill.

As a dedicated doctor and family man, Dad somehow managed to find time for himself to manage his affairs and play sport. As a young man in the 1950s, Dad boxed, like so many young men of his generation, obtaining his Blues for Oxford. He was always a keen tennis and squash player, but his other favourite pastime was to go for a jog or "pad" as he would call it. It was always a test of one's fitness when any member of the family went along for a 'pad' with him. It was while on many of these jogs that I as person learnt from him - to always keep going and never let a situation get the better of you. On many occasions I would return home physically exhausted but with a sense of achievement - if anything, having kept up with him or at least tried to! This was no mean feat – Dad ran the Two Oceans marathon twice and trained hard for the Macchu Picchu run only two and a half years ago.

However, Dad was first and foremost a family man. His love and support for Win, his three brothers, his children, his grandchildren and his many nieces and nephews knew no bounds. I know I speak too on behalf of the South Island families as well as the four in-laws when I say that Dad embraced us all warmly, welcoming us to be a part of his family. He wanted to see us all succeed and be happy in whatever walk of life we chose. He was always there to help us get back on our feet when things went wrong. His watchful eye, his patience, his attentiveness and the sound advice and encouragement he gave,

always managed to help us overcome the hurdles life had thrown at us. He was a pillar of strength to us all.

To his grandchildren - I say cherish the memories of all the fun things you did together.

Remember him for;

- his warm hugs and cuddles
- the funny stories he used to tell
- the encouragement he gave
- The endless games of cricket and countless card games played together
- The swims at the beach, and the ice-cream treats afterwards
- His sense of humour - especially his made-up ditties starting with Twinkle Twinkle periwinkle ...
- The bed time reading - Remember Dr Seuss and Otto
- His willingness to help deliver newspapers in the driving rain

Remember - he did this because he loved you all so much.

Let us not forget his willingness nor his eagerness to attend the countless school functions - whatever they might have been; from prize givings, to sports and ballet events, and school plays. The pride he felt and the interest he showed never wavered. Let us not forget his love of the outdoors, especially in the company of family – swimming at Waiake, water- skiing at Kenton, snow-skiing at Mt Hutt and braais around the pool – he was game for anything!

Dad was always an interesting person to be around and to talk to. He was always interested in your personal life and in the latest happenings. He would be the first to provide encouragement.

Dad was a gentleman who was very principled in what he believed to be right. He gave of himself selflessly, not only to his family and to his friends but also to his Church and the wider Community. His unassuming demeanour, his patience, his listening ear, his ability to provide sound advice and encouragement, his humour, his love and his care for all will always be remembered.

Dad - you have instilled within each of us a sense of respect and pride, a sense of compassion and of love, a sense of decency and of fairness towards others. Dad, we will miss you dearly. We will never forget you. God Bless.