

Jerry Wayne Davenport (1937-2007)

Jerry Wayne Davenport was born in 1937 in Salem, KY, the son of R.C. and Anna Bell (Jefferson) Davenport. Jerry was the grandson of John C. and Lula (Champion) Davenport. Jerry's great grandparents were John Wilson Davenport and Elizabeth (Bray) Davenport, who moved from Virginia to Grundy County in 1860 to a place near Tracy City. By 1872 the Davenports had moved to Salem, KY, where the family continued to live for a time before moving back to the Grundy County area.

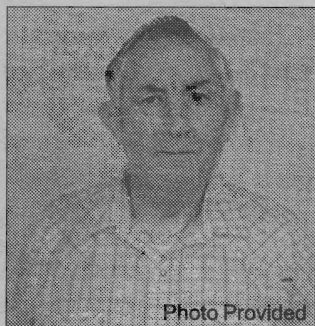


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College graduating with a triple major in mathematics, industrial arts, and ROTC and with a small plane license. Later while serving in the U.S. Army, he received an MMS degree. Jerry served in the Army for about five years with assignments in Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Upon discharge, he began working for Sverdrup Technol-

Jerry Wayne and his brother Jimmy Ray Davenport grew up in Monteagle. Jerry attended Monteagle Elementary School, Grundy County High School and Middle Tennessee State

ogy at Arnold Air Force Base as a computer programmer and eventually became a manager. He spent 36 years with Sverdrup.

Jerry received many awards and honors such as Member of the Year (NMA), Toastmaster of the Year twice, Toastmaster DTM. He sponsored the DARE program at Mon-

teagle and Swiss Elementary Schools for 4 years. Jerry wrote the NMA speech contest rules and guidelines for high school students. He was an active member of the Rotary Club and the Grundy County Historical Society. Jerry helped with the publication of the Grundy County Heritage Book 1844-2004.

One of his great passions was collecting baseball cards.

Jerry married Tracy City native Judy Harris who survives. Judy is retired from teaching and resides in Monteagle where the Davenports made their home.

Also surviving is Jerry's friend Roscoe P. Coltrain, "Train" for short, a precocious thoroughbred Pekingese for whom he was always gathering toys and blankets.

Jerry's civic work, concern for youth, work in historic preservation, and his stimulating conversation will be missed. Jerry died of cancer April 26, 2007, and was buried in Burns Cemetery near Tracy City with military honors. Rev. Mike Rigsby officiated. Cumberland Funeral Home in Monteagle was in charge of the arrangements.

Thank you, Jerry, for your contribution. Prepared by members of the Grundy County Historical Society.

DAVENPORT, JERRY WAYNE, age 70, of Monteagle, TN, died Thursday, April 26, 2007. He was born in Salem, Kentucky to parents, R.C. Davenport and Anna Bell Davenport, who preceded him in death along with a brother, Jimmy Ray Davenport. He graduated from Grundy County High School and Middle Tennessee State University. After more than 36 years as a computer programmer, he retired from Sverdrup Technology at Arnold Air Force Base. He was a member of the year of the National Management Association and Toastmaster of the year. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in Korea, Japan and Vietnam. Survivors include his wife, Judy Harris Davenport, his 15-year old dog, Train, and other family and friends. Funeral services were held Sunday, April 29 in the funeral home chapel with the Reverend Mike Rigsby and Ray Metcalfe officiating. Burial was in Burns Cemetery with military honors.