



Samuel B. Lawrence

May 10, 1921 - January 2, 2011

Samuel B. Lawrence, a noted Central Florida businessman, avid art collector, renowned dog owner, and longtime supporter of Rollins College, Lake Highland Preparatory School, Florida Hospital and Holderness School, died at home on Sunday January 2nd.

Born in Russia on May 10, 1921, he and his late mother, Eunice Haiman Lichtenstein Haas, entered the United States in 1925. Raised in Connecticut, Washington State, New York and Philadelphia, Mr. Lawrence was introduced to Orlando in the late 1930s by his mother, who wintered here.

Educated at George Washington High School and having served with distinction as a member of the United States Marine Corps in World War II, Mr. Lawrence became a grower of shade tobacco in the Connecticut River Valley and served as a two-term representative in the Connecticut State Legislature. The novel "Parrish", written by his cousin Mildred Savage, was inspired by his life and was the basis for the movie of the same name, for which he served as technical advisor.

In 1959, he and his former wife, the late Lois Becker Lawrence Oden, moved to Orlando with their two daughters. Mr. Lawrence invested at that time in the fledgling Budget Rent A Car Company. Eventually, a major portion of Budget's corporate structure was moved to Orlando, and Mr. Lawrence, as executive vice president, oversaw its rapid growth into a worldwide corporation. When Budget was sold to TransAmerica Corporation, he became an investor and executive with

Major Realty, a prominent real estate development concern in Central Florida.

A highly proficient hunter and an award-winning trapshooter, Mr. Lawrence was also a superb fly fisherman who owned a home in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana for many years. He was also a familiar figure around the marinas of Singer Island and Chubb Key, where he fished for sailfish with great success.

Since 1968, Mr. Lawrence had been certified as an AKC multi-breed judge. He and his

wife Marion, whom he married in 1970, were owners of numerous championship dogs, among them most notably the wire-haired fox terrier Lacey, winner of the 1992 Best in Show award at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Their Pembroke corgi Kevin was awarded first in the Herding Group at Westminster in 2006.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence assembled, during their marriage, an outstanding collection of American art. Many of their paintings and sculptures have been shown at Cornell Art Museum at Rollins and at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg. The Lawrences have made numerous gifts of art to the Cornell Museum. Other gifts to Rollins include the Samuel B. Lawrence Center and the Ruth duPont Terrace. Mr. Lawrence was named a CHIEF (Champion of Higher Education in Florida) by the presidents of the independent colleges and universities of Florida in 1993 and received an honorary doctor of letters degree from Rollins in 1995.

He leaves his beloved wife of forty-one years, Marion Walters Lawrence; his two daughters, Barbara Alfond and her husband Theodore, and Ruth duPont and her husband Thomas; his step-daughters Kathleen Schumann, Debra Deluca and Diane Deluca; seven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. He, and his family, are very grateful to his loving and devoted caregivers Dorrie (Tiny) Dockrey. And Vitra (Cindy) Ferguson.

A memorial service will be held at the Knowles Memorial Chapel at Rollins College on Wednesday January 5th at 11:30. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mr. Lawrence's name may be made to the Samuel B. Lawrence Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o President Lewis Duncan, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL 32789.

Arrangement entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory. Please visit <http://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com> to leave and view a condolence. 407-695-CARE (2273)

Comments



“ You will be deeply missed, Sam. You were a "one of a kind" guy which did so much in such a "short" time on this earth!

Linda & John Rowell - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for being with us so long.
Watch out for those golf balls.

Much love

Maryann - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sam was a good friend of the Cornell Fine Arts Museum, and a great colleague of mine in promoting American art in Central Florida. He treated Karen and me with friendship and support, for which we both ever grateful. It was an honor to know him!
~Arthur B.

Arthur and Karen Blumenthal - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Marion and family,
We read a beautiful story today of a man who led a beautiful life, enriching everyone he came in contact with. We are proud to have known him, and to have been included in his circle of friends.
His story was one of modesty, as there were many things we didn't know.
Marion, you were his helpmate and it didn't go unnoticed.
Our fondest memory is of the surprse 50th luau birthday party you gave for him. Complete with Hawaiian music, lush banquet, we can still see the dusk with tiki lights burning amid the many tables. Above all we can still hear Sam's hearty laugh and what a beautiful time everyone had.
You were fortunate to have one another; you made a great team.
May your memories sustain you; our prayers are with you and your family.
Elmer and Pat

Elmer and Pat Martin - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We had the honor of knowing Sam Lawrence. He will be greatly missed in the community and especially here at Rollins. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
Paula Hammer

Paula Hammer - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Sam...you were one in a million! I loved being in your company along with Marion, talking dogs and a myriad of other subjects. You were the best in so many ways, and we have all lost a giant of a man! There will never be another Sam Lawrence. I hope you can see your beloved dogs and your departed friends once again. We will miss you and will always love you.

Lee Canalizo - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My deep condolences to Marrion and family.
The Dog World has lost one of it's finest. Rest in peace, Sam.

Barbara Beissel - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences go to Sam's family. Tho I have not seen him in years, I have many fond memories of this wonderful man. He will never be forgotten.

Joanne Reed (Windrift Keeshond) - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sam will be greatly missed in the world of German Shepherds; he was a respected and giving individual. My condolences to Marion and family.

Diane Silver-Strasser - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sam will be remembered as a dear friend and a true sportsman who will be greatly missed.

LaMar and Elaine Mathis

LaMar and Elaine Mathis - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the Lawrence Family, I watched many of the Lawrence dogs being shown through the years and was in the audience at the Garden when Lacey the Wire Fox won.

Thank You for all your family contributed to the Sport of Purebred dogs.

Lynda Torrance - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Marion, I'm so sorry for your loss. The dog fancy will be the lesser for his passing. Sam was a great dog man and generous in his support of the breeds he so loved. He will be sorely missed.

Stephanie

Stephanie Hedgepath - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Marion and Family: I am very honored to have hosted both you and Sam several times as show secretary of German Shepherd Specialties. Also being an exhibitor or just chatting at the shows will always be remembered. My prayers are with you and the family.

Lois Gregor

Lois Gregor - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathies are sent to Marion and the family on the passing of Sam. He was a charming, kind, delightful, intelligent, true gentleman; and, it was an honor that he considered me a friend. My thoughts are of the family and my prayers are for them at this time. God bless you, Sam, and may you rest in peace with the angels.

Pat Scully

AKC Board of Directors
Class of 2014

Patricia Scully - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to Marion and family.
Sam was the most generous and hospitable of friends and will always be remembered. The world of dogs and particularly German Shepherds has lost one of its finest ever!
Karin and Al

Karin & Al Wagner - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to the Alfond's and the entire family. May you find comfort and joy for a life so fully lived by a person who made so many contributions as a leader and citizen.

Jane & Steve Akin - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh Sam, it's so difficult to put into words how I admired you. I was proud to call you my friend. You were so kind, so quick witted and you taught me so much. I'll miss your company at the dog shows. Chatting, laughing, critiquing dogs.... always sitting with you at our favorite spot - the end of the 'down and back'! I will miss you.
My deepest condolences to Marion and family. My thoughts are with you.
Carol Anne Giles

Carol Anne Giles - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Lynda and I send our most sincere sympathies to Marion and the girls on the Sam's passing. My memories of Sam have and always will be a part of my life from our first lunch at Gracie's in September, 1965. He meant so much to me as a young wipper-snapper a Budget. He was the anchor and soul of the licensee system a taught me so much. I, still to this day, refer to Sam in my daily life and quote him using his language. May God bless him and watch over Marion and the girls.

From Pat & Lynda Laff - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Sam--Debra Force mentioned it to me. I remember the fun times we had at the Montana home you had. All the stories and great food. I am sure I will see him in the future and put together a big art deal. ---Sincerely---Bob Drummond

Bob Drummond - January 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM