

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Perry

Bill Perry & Associates

Bill Perry, president of Bill Perry & Associates and SEMA Board member, died Monday, February 2, after a long fight with leukemia.

Beginning his career at a local speed shop in Carrollton, Georgia, while attending the University of West Georgia, Bill joined the ranks of manufacturers' reps with Quality Parts Sales Inc. in 1980. In 1985, he purchased the agency and renamed it Bill Perry & Associates (BP&A). BP&A covers markets in eight southeastern states, including Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Georgia.

Bill was an active member of SEMA and PWA. He will be sadly missed.



An open letter from Cathy Perry

Many years ago, on my first day of college, I met Bill and my dear friend Rosalind Prince. Rosalind and I were roommates who were paired together by chance. Bill and I met at an outdoor party given for new freshman on campus. Rosalind was from a very rural town in Heard County. Bill was raised in downtown Atlanta on North Avenue.

Last night, God's plan for Bill was for him to find his home in heaven. God must need a good Southern Gentleman who likes cars that go really fast. While we are sad to lose Bill here on earth, we will not be sad for his new life in heaven. When we found out that Bill had MDS (a type of leukemia) in July, he continued on as he has always lived his life. He identified the problem and sought the best possible solution to the problem. I applaud his strength and courage in his fight with the cancer that was in his body. He never complained or asked why me? Bill had wonderful care from the doctor's and nurses at Emory Hospital. They made a difficult situation as good as possible with skill and care. I will never forget the daily nursing care that Bill received. Bill's body just could not keep up the GVHD and infection.

I cannot say it enough or express my gratitude to our many family and friends during these last few months. Bill, Michael, Chris, Amelia and I will never forget your many kind words, deeds, cards and prayers. To our dear friends in Carrollton, you were always there to say the right words at just the right moment. You are my forever friends. We gained strength from you. Bill and I are greatly touched by the support from all the warehouses, customers, PWA members, SEMA members and staff, manufacturers, other rep agencies and friends. It meant so much to Bill that SEMA was able to put together a booth to sign up people for the Blood Donor Transplant Organization. We want to continue to support this life saving donor program.

Bill and I fully understood the complexity of his illness and what it would take to achieve a cure. He was determined to give it his best shot. The blood stem transplant was the only answer for him. He so much wanted to be here for me and his family. This particular plan did not work out but we will always remember Bill and thank God for our time together. He has taught us well.

This week we will celebrate Bill's life. We will return to work where Chris and I will continue to carry on the business.

Walk Ahead,
Cathy, Michael, Chris and Amelia