



Richard James Perry

June 29, 1928 - June 6, 2025

Richard James “Dick” Perry passed away peacefully at home, leaving behind a legacy of love, music, and community service. Born on June 29, 1928, in Schoolfield, Virginia, Richard lived a life defined by deep dedication—to his family, his faith, his music, and his community.

After graduating high school, Richard proudly served two years in the U.S. Army during World War II, stationed in Japan. Following his service, he pursued his passion for broadcasting at the National Radio School in Washington, D.C. He launched his career as a radio announcer in Galax, Virginia.

Richard’s life changed forever when he met Jean at First Methodist Church, where he and Jean’s father sang in the choir. A whirlwind romance followed—they met in January and married by June. Their love story lasted an extraordinary 74 years.

The couple, along with their infant daughter Vicki, moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where Richard worked at WFAI radio before beginning a 32-year career in advertising at The

Fayetteville Observer.

During that time, they welcomed two more daughters, Donna and Alice. He and Jean were longtime, faithful members of Hay Street United Methodist Church. He was a devoted choir member for over 50 years and served on numerous committees, including chairing the Board of Trustees for many years.

Richard was also deeply involved in his community. He was a proud member of the Fayetteville Jaycees and remained active in the organization until aging out. He volunteered as a Contact Telephone Ministry listener, providing a compassionate presence for those in need, and served as a docent at the Museum of the Cape Fear for a decade.

A gifted musician, Richard began playing in bands at just 14 years old. His musical talent enriched countless lives—he performed at church events, community gatherings, and was often asked to play at funerals. Over the years, he played with notable bands and musicians including Dave Blume, Bobby Wren, Roy Roach, and Wally Hinkamp. His performance credits also included appearances with community orchestras, the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, and accompanied many famous artists visiting Fayetteville, including Gladys Knight and the Pips.

Richard Perry will be remembered as a kind-hearted man of immense talent, steadfast love, and quiet service. His music, warmth, and legacy live on in the lives he touched. Heaven got a little swing in its step

with Richard's arrival!

He is preceded in death by his parents, Howard Jackson Perry and Veda Hungate Perry, and his brother, Carl David Perry.

Richard is survived by his wife, Jean Hancock Perry; his daughters, Vicki Smith (Stephen), Donna Quirk (Terry), and Alice Perry; Grandchildren, Leah Smith (Duke), Kara Chadwick (Eric), Aaron Quirk (Jenn), and Spencer Quirk; and Great-Grandchildren, Dallas and Perry Chase Smith, Kenan and Tucker Chadwick, Eden, Hudson, and Asher Quirk, and Shane Quirk. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

A Service of Celebration and Remembrance

Friday, June 13th 2:00 PM | Hay Street United Methodist Church | Fayetteville, North Carolina

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 13. 2:00 PM.

Hay Street United Methodist Church