



Joseph S Holman

December 12, 2019

Joseph S. Holman of Moorestown died peacefully the morning of December 12 after a stroke suffered earlier in the week; he was 93. The executive had overseen the growth of a business that his father had founded in 1924 as a single Ford automobile-and-tractor dealership, to what would become Holman Enterprises, a diversified international company of nearly 7,000 employees.

Joe was born in Philadelphia in 1926 to Katherine K. and Steward C. Holman, and grew up in Pennsauken and Merchantville, New Jersey, where he attended public schools. He was an outstanding high school basketball player – league MVP as a senior -- as well as playing trumpet in the marching band and eventually becoming its drum major. His musical skills appeared to diminish in his adult life, despite occasional energetic forays into New-Years-Eve entertainment. Joe met his future wife, Jean Preston Polk, at Merchantville High School. Their relative academic achievements at Merchantville were a matter of some dispute over their 59-year-long marriage, with each claiming superior class rank; that mystery was never fully resolved. Despite the controversy, they were blessed with good friends from Merchantville their entire lives.

Joe graduated from high school in 1944, and despite medically-recommended and concerted carrot consumption, did not have the vision required to pursue his dream of flying in the Army Air Corps. He enlisted instead in the Navy, where he achieved the rank of Radio Electronics Technician, 3rd Class. He often averred that his most significant contribution to the war effort was plugging in a movie projector that his shipmates could not start, thereby preventing a mutiny.

After leaving the service in 1946, Joe attended Princeton University on the GI Bill. He played varsity basketball at Princeton for four years, winning the Bunn Trophy (team MVP) twice, and at points leading the nation in free-throw percentage. His Princeton teams, playing under legendary coach Franklin "Cappy" Cappon, won the Ivy League title his junior year. Joe described his academic performance as somewhat less-than-legendary, however; in the spring of his senior year, he skipped classes for three months to finish his thesis.

Joe graduated from Princeton in May of 1950, and married Jean Polk one month later on June 24. He briefly considered attending Wharton Business School and discussed that

possibility with his father. Steward seemed less convinced of the benefits of further education, telling him, "You graduated from high school, you served your country, you went to Princeton. If you want to ever work in this company, you'll show up at 9:00 Monday morning." Joe showed up at work on Monday, July 1, at 9:00 a.m. He continued to show up at work for the next sixty-nine years, working until his health finally failed him at the end of his life.

Joe oversaw the transformation of his family's company from a regional retail-automotive business to an international powerhouse comprised of six distinct companies. Deservedly touted as a great businessman, he gave his full energies to his work. What distinguished Joe, however, were his kindness and humility, qualities not typically associated with business success. He also had real faith in, and love for, his "people," a telling word that he always used instead of "employees"; to him, they still were always people first – with real lives, loves, and struggles -- and workers second. Even at the end of his life, there was nothing he enjoyed more than speaking with "his people."

Joe was an avid golfer for most of his life, and enjoyed memberships at Merchantville, Tavistock, and Pine Valley Country Clubs. Some of the closest friendships of his adult years were formed and cultivated on these fairways. Jean was typically not as enamored with his time on the links, an opinion she gladly shared with him.

Joe was pre-deceased by his parents, and by his sister, Eleanor Andreola; his wife, Jean; and his sister-in-law, Helen Peitz. He is survived by a large and loving family: his sons, Jeff and Steve (Georgine MacGarvey); his daughter Mindy (Frank Beideman); his nephew Robert Andreola (Janet); his nieces Kathy Mullin (James) and Sue Moonan (Mike); his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Soderland; his granddaughter, Ashley Shaw (Steve); his grandsons, Jeff (Sara Bemkins) and Brett Holman, and Brad and Joe Beideman; and innumerable other nieces and nephews, and grand-nieces and -nephews. He is also survived by the companion of his final years, Peg Tomlinson and his caregiver, Maddy Santiago.

Visitations will be held Wednesday, December 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Thursday, December 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, 101 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ. Services follow at 11:30 a.m.

Interment will be private.

In place of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Urban Promise, PO Box 1479, Camden, NJ. 08105.

Events

DEC 18 **Visitation** 05:30PM - 08:30PM

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ, US, 08057

DEC 19 **Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ, US, 08057

DEC 19 **Service** 11:30AM

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ, US, 08057

Comments



“ This giant of a holy gentlemen not only influenced my career, he influenced my life! Forever grateful! I doubt anyone who ever met him didn't call him his/her friend!

Tom Wiegand - January 14, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ Joyce Powell lit a candle in memory of Joseph S Holman



Joyce Powell - December 23, 2019 at 10:03 AM



“ To the Holman family:

Another great man is no longer with us to share his wisdom and kindness. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss.

Jack Rosenfeld

JACK ROSENFELD - December 21, 2019 at 03:41 PM



“ Dear Jeff and your entire family, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies at the loss of your father. He sounds like a truly remarkable man. May you be comforted by a lifetime of wonderful memories and his enduring legacy. With much respect,
Tracy and Lesley Brunker (HMHS Class of '85, '82)

Tracy Miele - December 21, 2019 at 07:04 AM



“ Joe was one of the finest people I have every had the honor of knowing and serving. He made an impression on my life that will last for my lifetime. John Hough

John Hough - December 20, 2019 at 10:12 AM



“ I worked for the company for 17 years (ending up at ARI) before having to go on permanent disability. I had the pleasure to meet and see Mr. Holman and even had a picture taken with him and he was always very nice to me and always had a nice word to say. I will miss him. My deepest sympathy to Mindy and the family.

Bill Stimmell



Bill Stimmell - December 19, 2019 at 11:23 PM



“ John And Lauren Garten lit a candle in memory of Joseph S Holman



John and lauren garten - December 18, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Veronica Verlander - December 17, 2019 at 10:35 PM



“ Dear Mindy and family, The Woods family of Ed and Sons Glass, send our deepest sympathy to you and your family. We feel very honored to know your father. We will keep you and your family in our prayers...

Lisa Woods - December 17, 2019 at 08:55 PM



“ I'm a nurse at the Evergreens where Mr Holman lived. I didn't know him well but did get a chance to speak with him on occasion when he would come to the clinic there. He was always so nice to everyone and he made you feel like his peer; he put on no airs even though he built an empire. He was one of a kind!! God bless him and may he rest in peace. Deepest condolences to his family.
Karen DiCarlo

Karen DiCarlo - December 17, 2019 at 08:25 PM



“ I had the opportunity to converse with Joe on a few occasions when he came in to Moorestown Hardware. I took the opportunity once to tell him how much I respected him and the philosophy that he applied to his businesses. I told him he was an example for how American business should be. He was very humble about accepting this complement, and made it clear that he believed that his success was due as much to other people as to anything he did himself. He was a terrific human being. His legacy will continue to touch thousands of people for many years to come because his Children share his beliefs. Thank you Joe Holman

pete bender - December 17, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ Joe Holman was a very valued friend of our parents. My father was very saddened to hear of Joes passing and spoke of how he was a wonderful person..He will be greatly missed. Condolences to the Holman family from the Bantivoglio family.

Joy Bantivoglio for Tom+Pat Bantivoglio - December 16, 2019 at 09:52 PM



“ A customer for 40 years. But so much more. Mr Holman helped my son get a Caddy Job at Pine Valley. I still look for him at the Library on Sunday nights or at lunch at Merchantville.
Truly the classiest most sincere and caring person you would meet. A true gentleman in every sense. He leaves behind a wonderful family and an uncommon legacy of humanity and dignity.

Alan Drazen - December 16, 2019 at 02:26 PM



“ Dear Mindy and Family:

Naomi and I send our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family at this time of profound loss. It took only a few times together with your Dad to recognize what a humble, caring, astute and genuinely interesting person he was. His impact on so many people who were blessed that the arcs of their lives intersected with his, is clearly reflected in the special testimonies he has, and will continue to, receive. We are all fortunate to have known him!! Our thought and prayers are with your entire family during this difficult time.

Take special care,

Naomi and Phil Lippincott

Phil Lippincott - December 16, 2019 at 01:54 PM



“ I was very saddened to hear about your father. He was such a kind and gentle soul. I was an employee at ARI for 11 years and have been retired for 4 years. I can still see him behind the counter in the cafeteria dishing out ice cream at one of our many employee appreciation events laughing and having a great time. I always enjoyed his "state of the company" speech at the United Way kick offs. He will be missed.

Janet Gibbs

Janet Gibbs - December 16, 2019 at 01:31 PM



“ Because of the nature of my law practice(bankruptcy) I had some interactions with the family over the years, mostly with Mindy. From the start I was impressed by the family and would wish every family was as professional and caring. I wish the Holman's comfort and appreciation for such a legacy.

scott marcus - December 16, 2019 at 12:58 PM



“ I met Joe Holman in December 1971 when I was hired as an auditor for Holman Enterprises. Joe was the first gentleman that I met in my business career which began in September 1965. Joe had a way of making you feel valued in any interaction with him. He was the consummate gentleman which is sorely lacking in business today. I worked at Holman Enterprises from 1971 until 1979 along with Holman leaders, Tom Buchanan, Roy Meyers, Jack Kolb and Glenn Sanderson. It was Joe who fostered the family culture of the organization. Having been in many meetings with Joe, I never heard a cross word spoken. I remember when Joe, on occasion, would bring his daughter Mindy in to work when she was no more than 10 years old and she would spend time chatting with the auditors in our cubicles. It was evident that family was priority number one with Joe. Although it's been 40 years since I left the Holman work family, the knowledge I gained from Joe has served me well throughout my career. Joe taught fairness, honesty, integrity and character. He will be missed.

I extend my sincere condolences to the Holman family.

Rich Carretta

rich carretta - December 15, 2019 at 11:06 AM



“ I worked for Holman for 12 years before moving to another state. I grew up there, Mr. Holman taught me the importance of work and community. My sincere sympathy to his family. Truly a great man has entered the gates of heaven. Rest in peace Joe Holman.

Colleen Harrington-Fox - December 15, 2019 at 08:16 AM



“ Mindy, Frank and family I am deeply saddened by the loss of your father. He truly was a kind, thoughtful, caring man. He treated my father with respect after all these years. My thoughts and prayers go out to you all.
Sincerely,
Dawn Vitarelli

Dawn Vitarelli - December 15, 2019 at 08:07 AM



“ There’s so many stories and remembrances but I am so proud to have known him. He was tall but he would’ve been a giant even so. I have had occasion to be introduced to many people who saw themselves as powerful and rich, I would just laugh to myself because I knew Joe Holman. Our friendship extended over 50 years, or as he would like to say, with a twinkle in his eye, 48 cars.

He had been an enlisted person in the Navy and I think he never lost his fondness for the service. We spent many hours reviewing my latest tours of active duty, especially service aboard ship. I know he contributed to many of the relief agencies devoted to the sea service. In fact, he was one of the most generous people I have ever met, ever so very quietly.

I can still recall his fondness this for all things Ford. There was a Ford skyliner, a retractable hardtop model, that was a gift on his graduation from college. He told me that he had assumed his father’s seat on the Merchantville National bank and proudly drove his new car there for his first meeting. Of course, everyone wanted to see the hardtop retract and, as if on cue, it got stuck midway and had to make a trip back to the agency on a flatbed. Moving very slowly, Mr. Holman would add. We had a tradition, we used to bring every new car that we bought, those for ourselves not for family and the children, for him to inspect and to drive. When he saw our BMW cabriolet, he smiled and said “ I hope the top doesn’t get stuck halfway, “ more than 50 years after the original event.

I was grateful that he was still driving when our 67 Corvette was restored and he was able to take it for a spin. I am so grateful that he got to see our latest car, even though it was from a window in his office. My wife had tears in her eyes as she said, “look he has two thumbs up, I hope he lives to see many more cars.”

He was one of the humblest people I’ve ever met. Sometime before she passed, Mrs. Holman once said to me, “Joseph, will you please speak to him about driving around in an old Mercury Sable.” He loved that car and all of the others. We shared a particular interest in the 1956 Continental Mark II., never call it a Lincoln Mr. Holman would say. I remember asking about it and he said they had only gotten one and his father wouldn’t let him even approach it let alone sit in it or drive it.

Joe was one of the most generous people I have ever met and one of the most respected. When we would walk through a dealership or through the admin building, people would rise and you could see the genuine fondness in their faces as they would say: “Good Morning, Mr. Holman”. It was amazing to note that he remembered their names and would shake their hands and ask them first about their family and second what they were working on.

It will be a sorrowful experience seeing the family again at the services but at least we can share the memories of a wonderful human being. Sleep well and warm, my friend. I hope that somehow you and your Mrs are together again.

We choose to stay friends with people and we chose each other over five decades.

Fair winds and a following sea, my kind and gentle friend.

Joseph Louis Picogna

Joseph Picogna - December 15, 2019 at 07:53 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute. Condolences to Mindy and the family. We will hold you all in the light.

Jerome and Pat Kelleher

Pat Kelleher - December 15, 2019 at 07:23 AM



“ I Thank you for all the years and closeness you were to my Father and our Family. And for the opportunity to work for your company twice. Once when I was a Teenager then when I FIRST got out of the MILITARY. You and your Family are Genuine and one of a kind. You definitely will be missed by many. My sincere condolences to your Family and those employees that HAVE AND continue to cherish you and your Family.

Sincerely,

BOBBY, Stefanie, & Savannah ORMSBY.

Robert ORMSBY III - December 14, 2019 at 11:38 PM



“ Thank you Mr. Holman for being an amazing role model and entrepreneur. You will be missed.

Kathie Strinberg-Rose - December 14, 2019 at 09:48 PM



“ A humble and amazing man, leaving a legacy of kindness and community. It was an honor to know Mr. Holman and be one of the many employees to want to be just like him. My sincere condolences to the entire family. You are all in my thoughts.

Alicia Murnane - December 14, 2019 at 08:38 PM



“ A life well lived, your dad was always so kind and caring. When I was the the Director of LMDA, your dad was always so well regarded. As a young zone manager at Lincoln Mercury he was very respectful and complementary. He was loved by all.

Gretchen Thompson

GRETCHEN THOMPSON - December 17, 2019 at 08:41 PM



“ Dearest Mindy,

Al and I are so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. We have fond memories of both your parents. Thinking of you. With love, Marie and Al Roosendaal

Marie Roosendaal - December 14, 2019 at 06:29 PM



“ I remember Mr. Holman as a kind, cheerful, supportive man. He raised a wonderful family, build a strong and successful business, and always had time to share his thoughts and ideas with me, as I was starting a business of my own. I also remember the under-appreciated musical dedicated to his legacy, "Joe Holman - Nice Guy" that was the Hamilton of its time. Indeed, I detect the voice of the writer of that work in this obituary.

Sending deepest sympathies and love to all the Holmans. Your father was a gracious, loving man and his spirit lives in each of his children.

Roger Brown

Roger Brown - December 14, 2019 at 01:19 PM



“ December 14, 2019

I am truly sorry to here that Mr Holman passed on. I worked for Steward Financial. Seeing him along with Mindy was always a welcome sight. He was a gracious and kind man. The environment and culture that he built will always rein above any other. His legacy will live on always. He will be missed and I will always be thankful for knowing him.

Beverly Moore - December 14, 2019 at 09:57 AM



“ My life was forever changed in 1978 when I was hired as the Assistant Service Manager of Holman Lincoln Mercury, Maple Shade. Mr. Holman came to welcome me to the family and told me "One thing Luke, we don't want anything we are not entitled to" and those words are still with me today. A more honest man does not exist. Thank you Mr. Holman for the pleasure of working with you.

Luke Wilson - December 14, 2019 at 09:19 AM



“ My deepest sympathy on the passing of Mr Joe Holman he was a fine gentleman and always had a kind word !

Jack Dion - December 15, 2019 at 11:09 PM



“ Such a heavy heart today hearing this news. Mr. Holman was one of the nicest and most humble people I have ever met. Mindy and family you are in our prayers.
Jeff and Kaye Rhodes

Jeff and Kaye Rhodes - December 13, 2019 at 11:29 PM



“ I was so fortunate to be hired by ARI after I finished my first career teaching school....
Thank you Mr. Holman for sharing your leadership, inspiration and enthusiasm for community service...giving back.
I am honored and thankful to have been in your presence.
Whenever I speak of my time with ARI I always continue to say WE...
The universe has sadly lost a most wonderful human being who has set the standards for us all...
God Bless Rip
THANK YOU AGAIN

joel e toussaint

JOEL E TOUSSAINT - December 13, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ Joe is and was a kind, gentle and friendly man. He will be missed at 1st Presbyterian in Moorestown. He has gone to be with Jesus. God Bless him.

John W Miller
Fellow member

John W Miller - December 13, 2019 at 02:20 PM



“ I was fortunate to have met such a genuine and wonderful man when I worked at Automotive Resources International from 2010 to 2018. He was always so friendly and caring. I brought my daughter (8 years old at the time), now 17 years old, to our first ART SHOW at ARI. My daughter was asked to pose for some pictures for the ARI newsletter. He was so kind to her and made her feel very special. He even took a picture with her there, too. Every time, I saw him in the building, he was always smiling and would shake my hand. When I reached my 5th year working here, I had the pleasure of getting my picture taken with Mr. Holman, too. He will be deeply missed for his very kind demeanor, poise, "terrific smile", and wealth of knowledge, too. May his memories ALWAYS be for a blessing. Love and hugs to Mindy and family.

From Julie Steinmetz(formerly worked in Licensing and Title Department



Julie Steinmetz - December 13, 2019 at 10:38 AM



“ Truly a wonderful man and he will be greatly missed but always remembered fondly. I will always be grateful for the lessons I've learned from you. You've inspired so many in your lifetime and I am a better person just to have known you. Our sympathy to the entire Holman family for your loss. RIP Mr. Holman



Leo and Marilyn Rossetti - December 13, 2019 at 07:14 AM



“ Judith and i wish to express our deepest sympathy and prayers to Mindy and family and know that all of your Ford Motor Company friends are with you during this difficult period. I met Joe when i was 21 .. the year 1964 and I was assigned to Ft Lauderdale Lincoln Mercury as a Lincoln Mercury trainee for 3 month . Joe was a real mentor to me over my 40 years with Ford.
He was THE NICEST dealer (of any brand) I ever met... NEVER had a bad word about anybody and always very supportive ... Well, he didn't always give me the putts

during our many rounds of golf together . Joe attended my Mom's funeral , an action I will NEVER FORGET. That was Joe Holman. The Holman name is solid gold at Ford Motor Company and everyone from the CEO on down respected Joe (and Mindy) and the entire Holman organization . We are loosing a GIANT in the AUTO INDUSTRY... I will miss you Joe. JIM O'CONNOR

James G. O'Connor - December 13, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ We always said if you looked up the word gentleman you would find a photo of J.S. Holman. He was a leader but never a master of people. Joe Holman understood that it was nice to be important but more important to be nice. He lived his entire life, both in business, with his family, with his many friends and everyone he met with this thinking. He was my first mentor and gifted me with many of his traits. I will always remember him for being a true caring leader who always listened and asked questions before he spoke. I loved this man. May he forever R.I.P.

Joe Glowacki - December 13, 2019 at 06:06 PM



“ Sending so much love to all of his family. I had the honor of caring for Jean and was blessed by meeting the Holman family. Me Holman was a wonderfully kind and gracious man. I will always be grateful that our paths crossed. Xxoo Evelyn Bowlby

Evelyn Bowlby - December 14, 2019 at 02:21 PM



“ Mindy, our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your lovely family. Your dad was a wonderful person. He was the best!

Ray and Belle-Sharon Hirn - December 18, 2019 at 07:47 PM