

Words of Remembrance
Written by Daughter Tonya Lamia
Read by Doug Mark

On behalf of Jerry's family, I thank you for the love and support you've shared during this difficult time.

I understand that Jerry earned his nickname Phineas while living in Austin, Texas ... After reading the famous "Phineas Sayings" in today's program - he has surely earned the title as being one of the most interesting people in the world.

One of his most famous sayings is: "quality of life is NOT what you have ... it's how you LIVE IT."

Looking around the room today, I can see that Phineas lived a full and wonderful life with all of you ...

- from riding motorcycles, climbing mountains, and golfing ...
- to reenacting Battle of the Little Big Horn and living in Texas when Willie Nelson and Stevie Ray Vaughan were house bands at local venues ...
- He surely lived by his motto that "we need to use what Mother Nature gave us BEFORE Father Time takes it back."

Some of you may know that during the past year, Jerry was challenged with physical limitations that restricted him inside his cabin.

His daughter, Tonya, extends her appreciation to Jerry's friends – especially Bill and James, her boyfriend Scott, mom Diane, aunt Carolyn, cousins Tom and Lucille, good friend Russ, and the in-home-care service providers that helped her dad on a regular basis so he could enjoy the comforts and freedoms that his cabin gave him.

The family is also grateful to the team at The VA - both here in Rockford and at the Madison hospital. Jerry felt safe under the VA's care, and words can't describe the extraordinary support they provided during his journey.

Phineas says that "love is NOT a feeling ... rather, love is giving Spiritual Growth to someone else."

Tonya and Scott shared with me how the LOVE and SPIRITUAL GROWTH they received from Jerry – especially during the last week of his life - has forever changed them ...

- how the purity of his love filled their souls and opened their hearts ...
- how the wisdom he shared taught them the True meaning of life
- and how the extraordinary courage and grace he embodied connected them - and everyone around him - to an undeniable Higher Power that gave them Peace and Beauty during the most unimaginable and difficult time.

Stories of Jerry's Pure Love AND Phineas Magic traveled throughout the entire VA hospital ... and nurses and employees came by the dozens to

- visit him ...
- ask about his Silver Dollar Club ...
- and request to look at his Journal.

During his last day here on Earth, the VA team made sure that he could spend the morning and the evening outside under the BLUE SKIES ... where he listened to beautiful music and shared magical moments with Tonya and Scott.

He was able to see his mom, brother, sister, and godson in person, and he savored the Love and Respect of many close friends through phone calls and texts.

His daughter describes the moment that Phineas left this world as being MAGICAL ...

- how she physically experienced something words can't describe ...
- and how she felt overwhelmed with joy as she proclaimed "HE'S FREE."

She knew at that moment that her dad was with God ...

and that we can all be grateful to now have the BEST Guardian Angel watching over us from the REAL "Valley of Spiritual Growth."

If you have a Phineas Silver Dollar with you today, please take it out now and hold it to your heart. If you don't have one with you, we ask you to hold your hands to your heart for now and you can request one from his daughter after today's service

Phineas says that “it takes a big man to realize the value of such a small coin.”

YOUR Silver Dollar can forever serve as a reminder of the importance - and the POWER - of Positive Thinking.

Jerry’s incredible love, words of wisdom, and grace have forever changed us all for the better.

Phineas Magic ... the Power of Positive Thinking ... and the Silver Dollar Club are his Greatest Gifts to US ALL ...

We now ALL SHARE a special bond that can never be broken.