

REMEMBERING JAMES G. BAGLEY

By Gene Preston, President

Jarring news reached us of the February 17, 2024 passing of Jim Bagley, Charter Member #14. Taking this phone call was especially disturbing to me as Jim and I go way back to times when our IHC Chapter 35 was just a dream. We met online chatting about anything International Harvester as members of now defunct IHC Chapter 34, known as the Cub Cadet Chapter made up of 19 states. We rejoiced when our own IHC Chapter 35 of NYS was formed in 2005.

The passing of Jim Bagley sadly closes the book on what I see as much different times for our chapter when a group of us that included Jim Bagley, John Wallace, Nick Breslawski, Jay Fullerton, Steve Werner, Dick Elmer, Dick Maier, Tim Howard and I formed a travel group often traveling in a stretch-van attending Red Power Roundups everywhere. Times were different back then. Our "fifteen minutes of fame" took place at "The Little World's Fairgrounds" at Hemlock, NY when we set up our Headquarters Building overseeing our first and only stand-alone Red Power Charge, July 28-29, 2006. We all had major assignments and responsibilities. Bagz headed up the Cub Cadet Corral and rounded up special guests including Oscar "Hank" Will III, a noted author and IH guru known worldwide living at Gettysburg College at the time where his wife was college president. Bagley used his Cub Cadet Big Country ATV to haul VIPs around the grounds.



When Director Gil Dassance of Bath, NY became ill and had to step aside as director, the board appointed Bagz director until Gil got back on his feet and returned to the board. Said Bagz with tongue-in-cheek, "I did enough damage."

I could go on and on with this written tribute to one of our more colorful individuals proud to be a charter member who loved all of us, often teary-eyed telling us so. "I speak from the heart," he would say. I have located some photos to accompany this remembrance of our friend who has left his mark among us forever. It hurt like heck to have ordered his name plate to be put on our Deceased Member Memorial Plaque at the WNYG&SEA clubhouse. It joins names of individuals that admired each other, and we pay respect each time we meet there and see the names. His spirit lives on among us and Chapter 35 is blessed because of it.

Thanks for being a good friend, and part of our Chapter 35 history Jim Bagley. You made our chapter fun to belong to and we shall forever keep your stories alive. Rest easy old pal until we all meet again one day.

