

Closed Album: James R. Pullin



In the early morning hours of May 6, Jim passed away after being suddenly stricken. He was born in 1934 in the small town of Dowagiac, Michigan (1930 National Census count of 5,550). His legacy within the world of philately, and the Central Florida Stamp Club casts a long shadow. His involvement in judging at World Series of Philately shows, and his leadership of the CFSC speak to a life dedicated to an avocation that thrilled him to the bone. His vocation had him traveling the world and retiring in the Winter Park area, as a Lt. Colonel in 1977 after 21 years of service. A couple of years at Martin-Marietta in south Orlando and a long stretch of teaching at University of Central Florida in the field of management inventory control from the late 1970s to around 2012 --- kept him busy in “retirement”.

Graveside services are planned sometime this summer in his hometown of Dowagiac, Michigan.

Jim joined the CFSC in the early fall of 1990 and hit the ground running. Jim was always good for a presentation or two -- every year dealing with his beloved Trans-Atlantic Steamers. With the help of his wife, Anne in 2009 they published the definitive work on the subject titled, *North Atlantic Packet Arrival and Departures 1818 to 1840*. He served a total of three terms on BoD; President 2004/05, Vice-President 2002/03 and At-Large 2006/07.

In addition, he was a fully accredited and well-respected APS judge in 2007 and continued until stepping back from those duties in 2016 with Emeritus status. He traveled extensively as a WSP Judge in support of shows nationally. His exhibits won many gold awards over the years and he was awarded the prestigious AAPE Diamond Award for his exhibit *American Sailing Packets on the North Atlantic*. The Diamond Award is given to those exhibitors who have been awarded 10 Gold medals with the same multi-frame exhibit within a 10-year period. Jim achieved that goal in much less than 10 years and is 80th recipient out of a total of 106 currently listed on the AAPE website.

Jim found great value in joining other groups, he was an active member of the Florida Postal History Society and the German Philatelic Society, Chapter 23. He joined the American Philatelic Society in September of 1974 and was coming up on his 45th anniversary as a member.

As a final note, I would like to acknowledge Jim for his friendship and guidance over the years. While we did not always agree on some of the finer-points, we did agree that service to the hobby both on the local and national level was what we needed – and had to do to the best of our abilities. At the last club meeting (05.02.19) as he was leaving for the night, Jim said to me “You run a good meeting”. I responded with “Thank you – see you in two weeks.” As he disappeared out the door, he gave me a half-raised arm wave of goodbye. It will be more than two weeks my friend; rest easy.

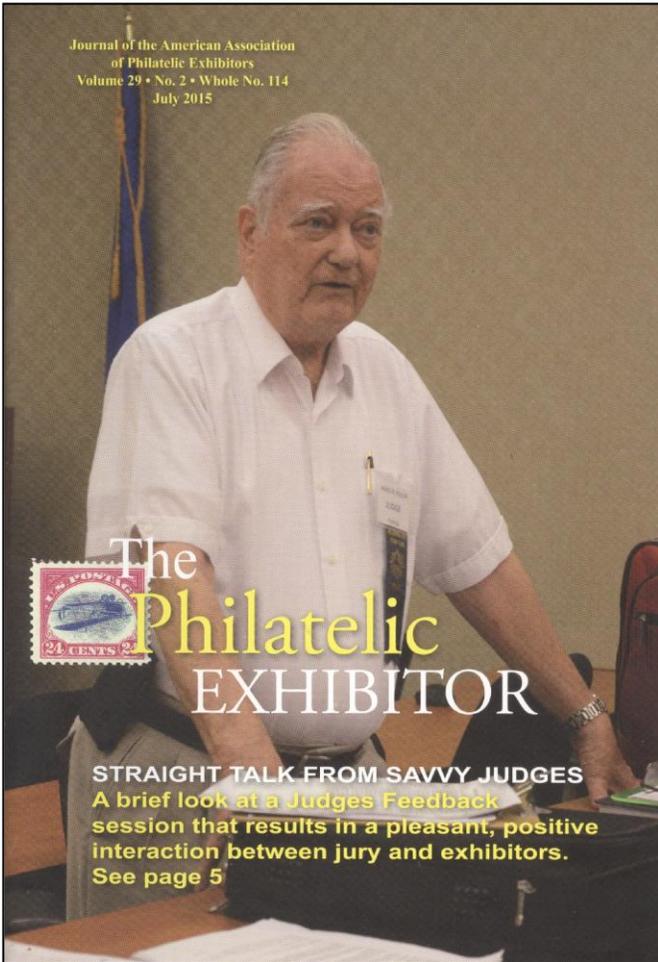
Francis Ferguson

Jim Pullin was a major contributor to the philatelic enrichment of not only me, and the CFSC, but to the hobby itself. He was a mentor and adviser that I turned to for help in not only collecting but personal matters also. Jim was eager to assist collectors into becoming exhibitors. Jim was an established expert and author in the field of early Transatlantic mail. His steady and calm influence will be missed.

Phil Fetting

At my first club meeting, about 7 years ago, I was a total stranger to the club and its members. Jim sat across from me and sort of picked my brain about my philatelic interests and military service. We realized that we were Vietnam Vets and a brotherhood was created between us. Over the years we shared many stories and he was one of the few people with whom I could discuss my Vietnam experiences. I will miss his excellent philatelic knowledge and our shared military experience. Fair winds to you my brother.

Mel Borofsky, PDCAPT, USCG Auxiliary



I have lost a friend and mentor. The untimely passing of our beloved colleague Jim Pullin has been a sad shock. Our prayers are with his family. Jim has been a wealth of information to me as a fairly new member of both our CFSC club and GPS Chapter 23. I got to know Jim more intimately during our monthly carpool to Lakeland for our German Stamp Club meetings. Jim always loved to tell stories about his military experiences with pride and many times with humor. To those of us in GPS 23, Jim shared freely his in depth knowledge and expertise. He donated many of his books to the club library for use by our members. Jim will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace my friend.

Carlos Guffain

I met Jim shortly after I joined the stamp club. We became fast friends since we were both US Army Cold War veterans and collectors of German Philately. After much arm twisting, he finally talked me into joining him on a trip to Lakeland to attend a meeting of the Germany Philatelic Society, Chapter 23. I was hooked right away. The GPS group is much smaller than the Central Florida Stamp Club but shares the comradery and friendliness common to both stamp clubs.

During our monthly trips to Lakeland, Jim introduced me to Fat Jacks Deli, his one demonstratable vice. As the

Orlando contingent of the GPS group grew (now up to 6 members), we enjoyed many a tasty lunch spiced with stirring conversation.

Later, I became aware that Jim was also a stampless collector like myself, we collected different parts of the world but shared many of the challenges of pre-stamp era mail. Just trying to figure out how much postage was paid and to whom can consume several hours of study.

When I became the Exhibit Chair for FLOREX Jim helped me during my learning process, dealing with judges, exhibitors and other creatures lurking around the exhibit frames. He was not only a champion exhibitor but also a senior judge. His advice and observations were always gratefully accepted.

I will always remember Jim with heartfelt fondness. He was a giant (if somewhat opinionated) among stamp and stampless collectors. He will be greatly missed.

Bob Fisher

[Please note that the CFSC will have a short period of remembrance in Jim Pullin's memory at the beginning of the first meeting of June. How did Jim influence you?]