

Relax

Life is way too short
Don't hide in your fort
Enjoy things of every sort
Life is there to court

So many things to see
Most good things are free
Be the best person you can be
Passing on glee has no fee

Stop to take the time
To see that everything is fine
Relax with a bottle of wine
With your valentine.

*-James Dale Avery
2014*

James Dale Avery's Biography

James Dale Avery was born on April 4, 1956 to Harvey and Mary Avery in Dubuque, Iowa, where he attended St. Patrick's School and Dubuque Senior High School. Jim was always interested in how mechanical things worked. At the age of 10 he was at his father's service station and found a box of motor parts in the backroom. After an hour Harvey went to look for him only to find Jim had put the motor completely back together!

Self-taught on computers, Jim worked for CyCare, a main frame computer company in Dubuque, for many years as their lead technician. He was a motorcycle enthusiast all his life (to his father's consternation) and was known to engage in daredevil stunts and assist his friend Jim McDermott. Jim helped McDermott on his biggest jump in the Houston Astrodome live on ABC's Wide World of Sports. Jim once said he "lived a normal life" as one of his brothers was asking him about a picture of Jim riding a motorcycle through a flaming wall of fire.

While on vacation in Italy with his life partner, Rhonda, he took great interest in the metal railings he saw throughout the country. When he returned to Dubuque he started his own business manufacturing artistic railings in his garage. He built and programmed his own computerized machines to bend the wrought iron into the shapes of the railings. As the business grew and showed great demand, he moved Avery Railings into a building in the Millwork District of Dubuque. You can travel throughout Dubuque and see his great work, including throughout the Millwork District, at the Q Casino, Premier Bank, St. Patrick's Church and many private homes in the area.

In January of 2014 he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. At that time the cancer had spread to his rectum, liver and bones. This was untreatable by surgery or radiation. Jim decided to take chemotherapy to extend his life as long as possible without hurting his quality of life. For the next year and a half he continued chemo treatments. When he became very weak and sick from the chemo he stopped it. Shortly there after he was bedridden. Even with insurance the meds he was taking were very expensive. One actually increased in cost by \$500 in one month.

Jim continued to work up to the last few weeks, donating his time and effort to Voices, The National Mississippi River Museum and others. He also finished several inventions in the last year, a tabletop grand piano operated by a computer and a bottle air flute also ran by computer. His most notable invention was the Avery Dicycle, which was completed in 2012 but Jim continued to tweak it up till the end. It was a bike with two 11' wheels in which the drivers sat between the wheels to drive it. The Avery Dicycle won an international engineering award. The "chemo bike" was finished in November of 2015. The dicycle and the "chemo bike" have both been donated to and accepted by the City of Dubuque, to be displayed at a public location yet to be determined Jim had the ability to see things in his head and bring them to life. No directions, just his amazing vision.

He was, in many ways, a true Renaissance man, in the spirit of DiVinci. Jim wanted many of his tools and inventions to go to a maker's space where children could see, touch, use and hopefully be inspired by them. Rhonda made sure that this happened, they found their home to inspire children of Dubuque. On December 5, 2015 he passed away peacefully at home that he shared with Rhonda.