

Jim Rogers Eulogy – Rory Reid

Jim Rogers scared me.

I know he scared you too. It's ok to admit it.

It's reasonable to be a little bit nervous when confronted with the superhuman.

Jim had amazing powers. He could be many things – charming and obnoxious, demanding and sweet, pious and humble, charitable and thrifty – all at the same time.

Jim was my mentor. I learned something from every cryptic comment and lofty idea he offered.

Over the years I got a lot of phone calls from Jim. A call from Jim was a roller coaster. Unpredictable. Thrilling. And, before you knew it, over.

When I was Chairman of the County Commission I got a call from Jim one day. The call started like every other. “Rory, this is Jim.” “Hello Chancellor,” I said.

Then, he said the thing that I think I heard him say more than anything else, “I have an idea.” I asked him what it was with the trepidation that comes from years of experiencing his ideas.

“The Community Colleges in Nevada should be run by local government,” he said. “I want to give you the Community Colleges.”

“But Jim, who is going to pay for them,” I asked. “Don't worry about the details,” he said. “We need to get this done.” And he hung up.

On another day I got a call. “Rory, this is Jim. I have an idea. I need to see you in my office.” When I told him I could be there in a couple of hours, he said, “No, I don't want to wait that long.”

Ten minutes later, I arrived at Channel 3. Jim met me in the lobby and said “follow me” as he headed up the stairs. He led me to Lisa Howfield's office. Her door was closed and Jim barged in without pausing to knock. Jim said to

us both—and it was not in the form of a request—“Rory is going to do a T.V. show for us.” He then looked at me and said, “You can say whatever you want.” And then he left.

I looked up at Lisa. I could tell that she was surprised. I asked her if this new show was news to her. She said, “yes.” I said, matter of factly, just like I had been taught, “Don’t worry about the details Lisa, we need to get this done.”

Jim was authentic. He was what he was.

Jim was a liberal and he believed that anyone who disagreed with him was either stupid or confused.

He thought that he had an obligation to make other people’s lives better. And he thought that you did too.

Jim was a businessman. He didn’t think it was wrong to make money. In fact, the more he made the happier he was.

Jim was an educator. He believed that Nevada would never be a great state until its schools are great.

Jim Rogers was a force of nature.

He was tenacious. He was unapologetic. He was abrasive. He was passionate, persuasive, outspoken, generous, demanding, confident, conscientious, and absolutely fearless.

Jim Rogers loved Beverley Rogers. I learned that if I needed to calm Jim down so that I could plan my escape from his office, the best way to do it was to talk about Bev. And in case he didn’t tell you during his lifetime, Jim would want me to let you know that Bev has the best legs he ever saw.

Jim gave me much more than I deserved. He taught me a lot of lessons. The last week has been empty. I miss him.

The angels in heaven have a new resident. They will have their hands full with this guy. And, if they are listening. I have some advice. Don’t be scared. Just give him what he wants. Don’t worry about the details.

Rest in peace my friend.