



## James Scott Hercik

November 5, 1950 - February 4, 2025

James “Scott” Hercik, 74, passed away February 4th in Reston, Virginia, at home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Alma, MI, son of the late James Joseph Hercik. He is survived by his mother, Luan Olive Hercik, his adoring wife of 43 years, Jeanette Hercik, his loving daughters, Katie (Andrew) Rediger and Christie (Ryan) Manthey, along with his five grandchildren: James Rediger, Mary Rediger, Caroline Rediger, Ruby Rediger and Tommy Manthey. Also surviving him is his sister Jean (Gary) Lustgarten, and sister in- law, Charlotte (Craig) Kierst.

Scott was a graduate of Alma High School, class of 1969. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree at Michigan State University (1973), where he played the trumpet in the Spartan Marching Band. Scott was a nationally recognized transportation expert with a career ranging from Amtrak, State of Michigan Department of Transportation, the Federal Appalachian Regional Commission and the Smithsonian. His love of travel and his adventurous spirit shaped a career and personal life dedicated to seeing the world, and Scott enjoyed sharing those travel experiences and memories with his family and friends.

Scott was a proud and devoted son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather, who cherished spending time with his family and his dog, Scout; particularly at

his and Jeanette's beautiful home in St. Michaels, MD. Scott served as Vice President of the St. Michaels Historical Museum Board of Directors, which gave him the opportunity to share his enthusiasm for St. Michaels with all who visited the community.

Visitation will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in Easton, MD on February 15th at 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m., to be followed by a memorial mass at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church at 11:30 a.m. All family and friends are welcomed.

In lieu of flowers, a contribution can be made to St. Peter and Paul Columbarium and Cemetery for a memorial bench to honor Scott's life:  
<https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-2554?tab=home>

Directions on how to contribute:

("Give Now" tab -- a "One-Time" donation -- use the drop down arrow to select "Memorial Donation" -- add "Scott Hercik" in the Note field).

Memorial donations can also be made by check addressed to SSPP Cemetery, with a note for memorial for Scott Hercik. Send it to the attention: Finance Office, 900 High Street, Easton, MD 21601.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. - Easton  
200 S. Harrison St.  
Easton, MD 21601

## Church Service

FEB **15**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
1210 S Washington Street  
Easton, MD 21601

## Celebration of Life

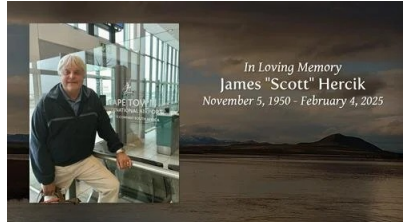
FEB **15**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Tidewater Inn  
101 E Dover St  
Easton, MD 21601

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James Scott Hercik*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - February 17, 2025 at 08:19 AM

DW

*A life well lived by a deeply loved person. Scott, we will miss you. Your loss will leave a hole, but your memory and footprints will not be washed away. God speed to our friend.*

*We extend love and deepest sympathies to Jeanette and family. We are so sorry we were out of the country and missed the celebration of Scott's life. Our prayers are with you all.*

*David & Susan Wojciechowsk  
St Michaels, MD*

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**David & Susan Wojciechowski** - February 17, 2025 at 12:54 PM

NA

“ I just learned of Scott's passing today, and I can feel the deep sadness of his absence. I work at Smithsonian Associates and Scott has been leading tours for us for over 20 years. I travelled with him on a handful of tours, including a Port of Norfolk tour, 20th Century Limited, and his famous Dulles airport program where the group got to go onboard a Boeing plane just before it left for Paris. He just loved putting together those really cool experiences. I still remember my first meeting with Scott in our offices. He had so much energy and enthusiasm, I could not help but share his passion for planes and trains!



Scott always provided group tour participants a unique experience, not limited to simply the equipment of these great trains, planes, and ships, but also stresses the human element, introducing the men and woman who help develop and operate these magnificent machines, day in and day out. Reflecting his love and enthusiasm for his mission, more than once his tour members have described the infectious enthusiasm that Scott brings to each and every study tour adventure.

*He will be dearly missed and remembered always.*

*Nichole Andonegui, Smithsonian Associates Study Tours*

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**Nichole Andonegui** - March 07, 2025 at 02:20 PM

JG

“ Hi. I am John Guidinger, a member of the Michigan Association of RR Passengers. We worked with Scott on many rail passenger items in during the time when he was with MDOT. I believe this was in the 1970s and 1980s. We always enjoyed talking to Scott and found him to be friendly, engaging, progressive in thinking, and well versed in Michigan Railroad matters. We will have an article about him in the next edition of our newsletter. I and many of our older member who knew Scott will miss him very much.

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**John H Guidinger** - February 23, 2025 at 08:49 AM

SH

“ I remember Scott from a very young age, we were childhood friends in a neighborhood of many children. We would play outside all day, creating circus performances for our parents on Vasses swing set or we would build cities in the Hercik's sand box. Of course Lady, their dog was always nearby. I babysat Jean and Scott helped me. We loved building tents in their living room! Our parents were such good friends, it was a wonderful childhood! We both went to Michigan State University, but he was a few years behind me. Of course we would see each other in Alma when we were both home, but I didn't see him again unit about 12 years ago, I visited my son and his wife in Fairfax, VA. Our mothers realized that we would be near Scott and Jeanette. I contacted him and he was so kind, we all had brunch together, catching up on life. He invited me to visit anytime, but sadly that was the last that I saw of him since Ryan moved back to Texas. I have such happy memories of Scott! Sending love and condolences to Jeanette, their girls and their families, Luan, Jean and her family. If I can ever help in any way, please let me know.

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**Sue Burke Harrington** - February 21, 2025 at 07:26 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeff Schultz - February 19, 2025 at 12:07 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Scott Hercik.

February 14, 2025 at 09:29 AM

JE

“ Jennett purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Scott Hercik.



Jennett - February 13, 2025 at 03:15 PM

LA

“ Love, Andi, Andrew, Aston and Archie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Scott Hercik.



Love, Andi, Andrew, Aston and Archie - February 13, 2025 at 02:37 PM

LA

“ Love, Andi, Andrew, Aston and Archie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Scott Hercik.

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**Love, Andi, Andrew, Aston and Archie** - February 13, 2025 at 02:37 PM

JS

“ I am thankful to have the opportunity to share some thoughts about Scott with you all. Scott was my first boss out of college, at my first real job at the Michigan DOT. I had done some work in my grad school thesis on Amtrak travel patterns, and Scott brought me on to help him with the International and Pere Marquette state supported rail service. It was a great experience, and I met a whole lot of interesting people thanks to Scott. He helped my wife Traci and I settle into Lansing, which was totally unknown to us. When I left MDOT to go west, Scott and I stayed in touch. When I landed at Washington State DOT in the rail program, we checked in regularly to share intel, and the latest Am-news. When Janette and Scott went to DC, we managed to get together occasionally when I came to town. He shared his latest special projects info, and I told him what was going on with the WSDOT rail program. I think it was Spring 1996 we knew the end was coming for the Pioneer train service between Seattle and Denver. We decided to book a trip to ride the route before it was discontinued. It was a memorable trip, with a very late train (late trains get later...) after an unfortunate incident in Pendleton, OR. Nevertheless, the time together was great, and memories were made! Scott was a special person, kind, thoughtful, intelligent, adventurous, and humble. His work throughout the rail passenger industry was notable, and he was a key player in so many projects in the Michigan Rail program. His ability to build consensus and coalitions built the foundation for projects around the country. He was a true servant leader, and he will be missed.

Jeff Schultz

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Jeff Schultz - February 12, 2025 at 01:03 AM

JC

“ John and Grace Cartwright purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Scott Hercik.



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**John and Grace Cartwright** - February 11, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Scott Hercik.



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February 11, 2025 at 08:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Scott Hercik.

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February 11, 2025 at 08:07 PM

JM

“ We send our deepest condolences. Jean and Gary have been our dear friends for many years. We have been with Scott on many festive occasions over the years, and it was always a delight being together! Jean and I always talked about our love for our big brothers. We both had a big brother three years older than us. It is a very special relationship. He will be greatly missed. Sending our love and deepest sympathies.  
Janice and Lloyd Moriber

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**Janice & Lloyd Moriber, MD** - February 11, 2025 at 03:46 PM

J&

“ Janice &. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Scott Hercik.

Janice &. - February 11, 2025 at 03:33 PM

SC

“ Stan and Carol purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of James Scott Hercik.



Stan and Carol - February 11, 2025 at 03:08 PM

LH

“ My deepest sympathy to all. Scott was really a nice guy and I know he leaves a wonderful legacy but also a deep hole in his family's heart(s).

*I'm am very thankful I was able to visit in August and receive a personal tour of St. Michael's, MD.*

*May you soar with the angels, Scott.*

Lucretia Hildabridle - February 10, 2025 at 09:53 PM

BM

“ I got to know Scott through Alma High School band camps at MSU . Great guy and great sense of humor! Sending Panther hugs and love from Alma.

Ben McCarthy - February 10, 2025 at 08:56 PM

LH

“ Love, Katie, Joe, JT, and Ginny Hagedorn purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of James Scott Hercik.



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**Love, Katie, Joe, JT, and Ginny Hagedorn** - February 10, 2025  
at 07:16 PM

LH

“ Love, Katie, Joe, JT, and Ginny Hagedorn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Scott Hercik.

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**Love, Katie, Joe, JT, and Ginny Hagedorn** - February 10, 2025 at 07:16 PM

NF

“ N. Abraham Issa, Jean and Gary's friend. purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of James Scott Hercik.



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**N. Abraham Issa, Jean and Gary's friend.** - February 10, 2025  
at 08:36 AM

NF

“ N. Abraham Issa, Jean and Gary's friend. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Scott Hercik.

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**N. Abraham Issa, Jean and Gary's friend.** - February 10, 2025 at 08:36 AM

ML

“ *Michael and Wendy Lustgarten purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Scott Hercik.*



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**Michael and Wendy Lustgarten** - February 10, 2025 at 06:57 AM

BM

“ *Scott and I were next door neighbors growing up there were 5 boys in the neighborhood and we called ourselves the fearsome fivesome I was the youngest and Scott was the next youngest. We did everything together as a group and have great memories of playing football in the vacant lot, basketball, golf and baseball in the backyard and actually shoving snow in the neighborhood to make a few dollars. Also we always enjoyed having the entire Hercik family up to our cottage at Black Lake. Scott and his entire family will always fill my mind and heart with fond memories!!!*

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**Bob Miller** - February 08, 2025 at 07:44 PM

KM

“ Scott was one of my best friends for decades. We first met when he joined our rail group at Michigan DOT in the 1970s. After I left, he took over the top position there for many years before heading to Amtrak in DC and subsequently the Appalachian Regional Commission. He and I shared a love of trains and planes. We also shared a love of travel, and he managed to do quite a bit of that domestically and internationally. One of our most memorable trips together was riding an Ann Arbor Railroad freight train during a bitter cold February night from Owosso to Frankfort while we were at MDOT. Upon arrival in the morning the crew of the Ann Arbor car-ferry treated us to a sumptuous breakfast on the boat while it was waiting to sail across Lake Michigan. Scott was always fun to talk with and be with, and I regret that in recent years I did not see him more often. And, of course, we didn't just talk about trains and planes, we also talked about our beloved Michigan State Spartans. My love and best wishes to Jeanette and Scott's wonderful family with which he was blessed.

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Kevin McKinney - February 08, 2025 at 06:42 PM

HH

“ Scott became our brother when Chris became Jean Hecik's sister as dorm mates at MSU. We always exchanged “friendly” banter during football season as I am a Wolverine. Favorite memo was being stranded New Years Eve night on the 7 mile bridge with Scott and Jean and a bottle of champagne watching the tarpon shimmering in the moonlight. Rest easy now dear brother. Chris and Henry

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Henry Ho - February 08, 2025 at 04:19 PM

CH

“ Chris and Henry purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James Scott Hercik.



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**Chris and Henry** - February 08, 2025 at 04:09 PM

BG

“ I got to know Scott when I was the Marketing Route Manager for Eastern Routes at Amtrak and he ran the passenger rail department for the Michigan DOT. We've been friends ever since. Not only did we share a love of trains, but we also were both enthralled with airlines, airliners and travel. But the most important memories I will always have of Scott was his enthusiasm for what he did, his creativity, the joy that he got out of life every day, and the devotion to each other that he and his wife Jeanette shared.

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**Bruce Goldberg** - February 07, 2025 at 08:21 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Mark Burton** - February 07, 2025 at 07:30 PM