

Jerry Ahern 1946 - 2012

By Mark Pixler

It's my sad duty as editor to report the passing of Jerry Ahern, author and columnist. I had long been a fan of Jerry's work, and was honored when he called and asked if he could write a column for me. That was in 2008, and I've since enjoyed every minute of my association with Jerry. I'll miss him, as will everyone who knew him.

Following is Jerry's obituary as published by Evans Funeral Home in Jefferson, Georgia:

Evans Funeral Home announces the death of Mr. Jerry Ahern, age 66, of Jefferson, Georgia, who passed away on Tuesday, July 24, 2012. Mr. Ahern was born in Chicago, Illinois, a son to the late John and Arline Ahern.

Jerry was an award winning, internationally known author of over 80 novels, including "The Survivalist" series, numerous non-fiction books as well as thousands of magazine articles. In recent years Jerry served as an editorial consultant.



Additionally, Jerry was a strong supporter of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. Jerry had a strong Christian faith and led a vigorous and healthy

lifestyle until a recent and aggressive cancer took his life. His positive and never-give-up attitude, as well as a good sense of humor, were a part of his day to day throughout. Jerry was deeply cherished and loved by his family; all those that knew him loved him. He had a strong devotion to his family.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Sharon Ahern, Jefferson, Georgia; children, Sharon and Robert Akers, Commerce, Georgia; Jason and Tracy Ahern, Buford, Georgia; grandchildren, Olivia Akers, Alec, Aidan, Emily and Addison Ahern, nephew, George R. Smith, Hartwell, Georgia.

A private family Memorial Service will be held on a later date.

Evans Funeral Home, Jefferson, Georgia. 706-367-5467

Online Condolences at www.evansfuneralhomeinc.com

"Three Amigos" *Continued from Page 41*

the six-person National Infantry Trophy Team that won the Silver medal at the National Rifle Matches last year. He also earned points towards the Distinguished Rifleman's badge.

While at Gilbert High School, Joey was active in USAF JROTC. He was a Corps Commander in 2011, the Distinguished Cadet for 2011-2012 school year, and the varsity team drill commander of his unit's national championship team. He amassed three national championships along with 43 trophies in this Arizona Interscholastic Activity. Joey is also an AP Honors student, a member of the National Honor Society, and graduated with a 4.0 GPA in the top of his class. His JROTC commander, Major Loucel, said, "Joey is an exceptional cadet, who has always been among the top in the corps since he joined."

Originally, Joey didn't seek a position on the Naval Academy's rifle team, but he learned that the academy's athletic department wants to add him to the Midshipman's roster because of his experience with a high-profile national champion junior rifle team. With hands-on training and a rigorous shooting schedule with smallbore and air rifle at the NCAA

level, he'll quickly become a permanent fixture with the Mid's, Kirby projects. Instead of waiting for classes to begin, Joey borrowed a smallbore rifle and an air rifle from Rio Salado's junior division and began practicing immediately.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about the opportunity we were provided in Arizona's junior rifle programs," Joey said. "All three of us... me, Tyler and Alex, 'the Three Amigos'..., are fortunate to have been at the right place at the right time, with the right people supporting us to achieve our dreams," Joey stated. "You can absolutely earn a college degree shooting rifle," he added.

Kirby remarked that it has been a great pleasure and an honor to have been able to coach these rare athletes and future leaders of our country whom he says, "possess deep reserves of dedication and passion to excel in their education, in rifle competition, and in their upcoming careers in the military and beyond."

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