



## Mark Pero

January 26, 1949 - March 29, 2011

Obituary of Mark Pero  
Mark J. Pero, 62, of Ocala, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2011, at the Palliative Care Unit of the VA Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, after a brave battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He leaves his loving wife, Janice, sisters Judith Pagnini of Mechanicsville, VA, and Nancy Clark, as well as many nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and nephews in Virginia, North and South Carolina and New Jersey. Mark was born on January 26, 1949, in Stafford Springs CT, to Mary Y. and Robert F. Pero. The family moved to Richmond, VA in 1958, where Mark graduated from Douglas Freeman H. S. in 1967. He ran for the track team both in high school and in College at Virginia Tech before joining the U. S. Navy in 1969. He spent most of his Navy career in Naples, Italy, in land-based submarine communications, and joined the U. S. Department of State's Foreign Service in 1976 as a Communications Officer. Mark returned to Italy in 1976, serving in Rome at the American Embassy, where he met his wife, Janice Bywaters, and they were married in 1979. Mark and Jan served together with the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service at U. S. embassies in Malawi, India, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand, Brazil, and Guatemala, and at the State Department in Washington, D. C., until their retirement in 2000. After retiring to the Ocala area in 2001, they continued to travel the U. S., Canada, Europe, and Asia, usually accompanied by their favorite traveling companions, Jane and Joe Graff of Pennsylvania. Mark was an avid sports car racing enthusiast who enjoyed camping trips with his many "racing buddies" at tracks in Sebring

and Daytona Beach, Florida and at Road Atlanta in Georgia. He and Jan were dedicated and loyal fans of the Kansas City Royals and Chiefs. He loved photography; running, fast-pitch softball, volleyball and tennis in his younger years; and bicycling the roads and trails of northern Virginia and north-central Florida after his retirement. Mark never met a stranger and has friends all over the world who will miss his warmth, wit, and ready smile. A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 16th, at Roberts Funeral Homes, Bruce Chapel East (2739 SE Maricamp Rd, Ocala, 352-732-9944) with internment at a later date at the Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens in Ocala. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the ALS Association 27001 Agoura Rd. Suite 250 Calabasas Hills, CA 91301, 888-949-2577 or [www.alsa.org](http://www.alsa.org) or the Humane Society of Marion County PO Box 1542, Ocala, FL 34478, 352-873-7387 or [www.humanesocietyofmarioncounty.com](http://www.humanesocietyofmarioncounty.com) in Mark's honor.

# Tribute Wall



“ I met Mark waiting in a line of cars at Road Atlanta to get into Petit LeMans around 2004 I think. I was behind him in line. He was from Ocala and I from Orlando. We went to Daytona many times and camped out there and at Sebring. Had a lot of fun together. Did somebody take down his Facebook page? How is Jan doing?

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**Scott** - January 20 at 03:21 PM



“ My first ALS symptom occurred in 2016, but was diagnosed in 2018. I had severe symptoms ranging from shortness of breath, balance problems, couldn't walk without a walker or a power chair, i had difficulty swallowing and fatiue. I was given medications which helped but only for a short burst of time, then I decided to try alternative measures and began on ALS Formula treatment from Aknni herbs centre, It has made a tremendous difference for me (Visit ww w. aknniherbscentre.c om). I had improved walking balance, increased appetite, muscle strength, improved eyesight and others.

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**cory** - May 28, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ **Mark Pero**

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June 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I am sad that I lost track of Mark's travels over the years. We ran track together at Freeman and Tech and were roommates as well. He took me to my first Nascar race at Martinsville in 1967 (Tickets were \$7.00) and I have been hooked ever since. Mark was special in so many ways. I have been in touch with several other track guys and his name comes up often. I miss him even more knowing that he has left us. My condolences to Janice and the family. Ken Everett/AKA:Jake

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**John Everett** - April 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Jan, Judy & Nancy....My heart is breaking. The tears started when I saw his picture. "Do not weep for me..... I am a thousand winds that blow I am the diamonds glint on snow I am the sunlight on ripened grain I am the gentle autumn rain I am the soft stars that shine at night"

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**Christy Owen** - April 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ The staff of Roberts Funeral Homes and I would like to offer our condolences to your entire family during this difficult time.

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**Michael Csuka** - April 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM