



## William Perry Vance

October 5, 1946 - January 12, 2016

William Perry Vance, 69, of Charlotte, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Perry was born October 5, 1946 in Bedford, PA, the son of the late Edgar and Lena (Miller) Vance. He graduated from Bedford High School before enlisting in the U.S. Army. Perry was passionate about the livestock industry. He was known throughout the country as a legend, having ridden in boxcars with cattle across the U.S. and across the ocean on cargo ships. As a young man, Perry enjoyed bareback riding in rodeos. He devoted his time to 4H, and loved to inspire youth. Above all, Perry loved his family.

Perry is survived by his wife of 39 years, Penny; their children, Caleb Vance, Seth (Courtney) Vance and Diana Bateman of Houston; grandchildren, Jesse Vance and Taylor Gray; sister, Dora Kennedy; brother, Roger Vance; sister-in-law, Lora Behnke; several nieces and nephews; and countless special family and friends. He was predeceased by his son, Billy Vance and four siblings, Walter, Gloria, Doris and Peggy.

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the family to be used for the Hale Farm and Friends Youth Scholarship Fund. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Perry on his tribute page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.



# Tribute Wall

HU

“ We lived across the road for most of my life and Perry was a once in a lifetime kinda person. Always there to lend a hand and share a cup of coffee with. He used to take my kids for rides in his machines. A smile always comes to me when I think of "the cows are out!"

Hayley Uhl - January 28, 2016 at 12:33 PM

SB

“ Penny and family, So sorry for the loss of Perry. He was a good man.

Stephany Burke - January 21, 2016 at 01:26 PM

BG

“ Penny and Family, I want to extend my Prayers and Condolences to you all for the passing of Perry. I always enjoy the times that I would come cross paths with you all in Louisville during the livestock or the farm machinery show.

I will always remember the advice Perry taught me on cattle and how he was the first to wear a catcher's mask when clipping.  
Again, Sorry for Your Loss, Billy Gregg

Billy Gregg - January 16, 2016 at 08:59 AM

AC

“ Aunt Penny, Caleb, Seth, Courtney I was so sorry to get the word that Uncle a Perry had passed. Defiantly a one of a kind man! I'm sure you all will find strength in your memories and your closeness of a loving family. God Bless!! See you on the other side Uncle P!!!! XXOOXX



Arleen Conger - January 15, 2016 at 09:22 PM

LC

“ Penny so sorry for your loss my heart goes out to you and your family

leanne claucherty - January 15, 2016 at 08:25 PM



“ Perry was one of my idols and mentors back when I started in the 70s. Worked with him several times from both the west and east coast and places in between. He got my champion steer ready in 1975 and that was one of the things that fueled my desire to work with show cattle. He will be missed by many, many people. RIP old friend.

Jeff Treadway - January 15, 2016 at 10:40 AM

CO

“ I learned a lot about showing Cattle from Perry. He made an impact on me when I was in 4-H that I carried through to college and beyond. Penny and family, I'm sorry for your loss.

Connie - January 15, 2016 at 09:46 AM

KD

“ Perry is one of the strongest, caring people I've ever known. What an amazing person to have touched the lives of so many. My heart breaks for Your loss. I love all of you.

kellie doss - January 15, 2016 at 07:52 AM

SR

“ So sorry for your loss. Perry was family to us. He will be truly missed by so many.

Sylvia Riordan - January 14, 2016 at 05:23 PM

MS

“ Penny - I am so sorry for your loss. Tthere is nothing I can say that will help & I wish there was. Know my thoughts & prayers are with you & your family. Blessings, Marilee

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**Marilee Soltis** - January 14, 2016 at 10:11 AM

HK

“ Penny, Caleb & Seth-

*So sorry to hear of Perry's passing. We will always cherish the times spent with him at the Shorthorn Junior Nationals and other shows near and far. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.*

*Jeff, Heather, Justin & Dylan Kennedy*

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**Heather Kennedy** - January 14, 2016 at 07:35 AM

RB

*Perry was truly a legend and an icon in the livestock industry he will be missed by all. Rb*

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**randy barnes** - January 15, 2016 at 05:26 AM



Diane Rhodes

*So sorry to hear this, Penny. I remember talking with you at work and feeling your struggle with his illness. It was clear how much he meant to you. Just so sorry it ended this way. I haven't forgotten you - not gonna happen. Prayers and hugs to you and your family. Diane Rhodes*

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**Diane Rhodes** - January 15, 2016 at 08:49 AM

JF

*Penny, I'm sorry for you and your family. I remember meeting Perry at the state fair in Detroit. So many of us had wonderful times showing cattle summer after summer. He would rope in the isles and tell us all fun stories of his adventures. Those were the days! Good times and good memories.*

*Judy Fox*

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**Judy Fox** - January 15, 2016 at 09:49 AM

RS

*The best times our family had showing cattle was when we lived in Michigan and showed against the Vance family? Especially one year when we both had a good heifer that seemed to alternate winning all year long. It was the same way in showmanship as Caleb and my son Aaron seemed to alternate winning. However as much as Perry loved to win he equally loved helping those less experienced learn what it takes to do it well. Surely our family was one of those newbies that Perry inspired. I'm sure several people across the country can share similar stories. He truly is a legend in the industry and will be missed by all.*

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**Rod Schoon** - January 15, 2016 at 12:37 PM

KM

*My thought and prayers are with you all. Perry was a wonderful man and will be missed*

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**kathy Miller** - January 15, 2016 at 04:05 PM

  
Sarah  
Pick

*My heart breaks for you and the boys, Penny. We were strangers that arrived from Oregon needing a place for our heifers to recovery before Shortie Junior Nationals. You all took us in and next thing we felt like family. You all made our first Junior Nationals so much fun! Perry gave Shelby plenty of grief and he and the boys did a bangup job for her! Could never repay you for your kindness. Much love to you all. He was a gem!!*

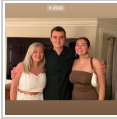
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**Sarah Pick** - January 15, 2016 at 08:41 PM

JG

*How sad our family was when our mutual friend, Gordon Schubert called and told us of Perry's passing. Our friendship with Perry goes back a long way, when he was a valued employee of Walbridge Farms, Millbrook, N.Y. Any one that ever knew Perry would always remember him for his fun loving, knowledgeable person that he was. What a reunion there must be in heaven today with Perry, John Riordan, Joe Smith, and Bart Glass. Our sympathy goes to Penny and family.*

**Jane, Dan, Jim, and Bart L Glass** - January 16, 2016 at 10:59 AM



*Some of my fondest memories from childhood were visiting Uncle Perry at his home in Chestertown, MD. My sister Donna and cousins Rosie and Mike spent 1 summer together there and I will never forget it. Even as a child, I knew Uncle Perry was a "character!" ...but boy did we all adore him! Rest in Peace! My condolences to Penny and the boys!*

**Pamela Komons** - January 16, 2016 at 12:07 PM

KK

*A gruff softy. Perry was instructive and kind to this know nothing city girl. Blessings to you, Penny, and to Caleb, Seth, and Courtney.*

**Kay Kaminga** - January 17, 2016 at 05:22 PM

DR

*Thoughts and prayers to Penny, Caleb, Seth, and all on Perry's passing. He will be greatly missed but not forgotten. first met him at Walbridge farm New York last visited at 2015 Mich. Beef Expo. A man with cows and the "bull" to back it, who always said it's about the people, Congrats on Denver, continue to walk and blossom on trail.of those before you. With respect and endearment, Dale Rains*

**dale rains** - January 20, 2016 at 07:26 PM