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# Jim Hearst is dead

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Jim Hearst is dead. He would have been 83 soon, and given the pain of his last weeks, death surely came as a relief.

What a will the man had! To have lived a life that touched so many people, overcoming so much physical pain, speaks well not just of Jim Hearst, but of the human spirit as well. He took away our excuses.

I have a note he sent just six weeks ago. I had sent him a short letter when he was in the hospital in which I lamented that no silly "get well" card seemed to say what I had in mind. He replied with typical wit and candor: "Most get well cards are a snare and a delusion, to say nothing of an anathema." He went on to comment on his wife's flowers, of all things: "Meryl's iris are a sight to behold. They may not last until I get back from the hospital. At least I can remember them even if I can't even remember what year it is."

That was Jim Hearst: the blooming of the flowers always came before the mere passing of the years.

We can be proud that the community honored him so openly before his death. More importantly, we can be proud to have had such a man among us for so long.

7/29/83 Cavalletti