

# OBITUARIES

## John Riccardo, Chrysler CEO who recruited Iacocca, dies at 91

BY LAURENCE ARNOLD  
BLOOMBERG

John Riccardo, who changed the course of Chrysler Corp. in the late 1970s by hiring Lee Iacocca to succeed him and requesting the government loan guarantees that helped save the automaker, has died. He was 91.

He died on Feb. 13 after attending a University of Michigan basketball game in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Known as “the flame-thrower” for his direct, sometimes brusque approach to problems, Riccardo rose through Chrysler’s ranks as a protege of Lynn Townsend, whom he succeeded as chairman and chief executive officer in 1975.

Crisis defined his tenure, which coincided with an economic recession and the U.S. car industry’s worst slump since World War II. In 1974, with new-car sales plummeting, Chrysler cut prices and closed most plants for a month. In 1975, Chrysler canceled its dividend for the first time since 1938. When Riccardo retired in 1979, the Detroit-based company was on the brink of bankruptcy.

In the intervening years, Riccardo pursued two paths that would define Chrysler for decades.

First, he lured Iacocca to Chrysler in October 1978, following Iacocca’s ouster as president of Ford Motor Co. Iacocca became Chrysler’s

president with the understanding that Riccardo would step down as chairman and CEO and turn over those titles to him at the end of 1979.

“It was sad in a way,” Iacocca wrote of Riccardo in his bestselling 1984 autobiography, “because he hadn’t even been pushed by Chrysler’s board of directors to approach me. He did it on his own. He obviously realized that the company was in deep trouble and that he wasn’t going to be able to nurse it back to health.”

Second, Riccardo shuttled back and forth to Washington to press Chrysler’s request for federal government assistance, which he said was essential for the company’s survival. When he became convinced that Congress would be more receptive to a new-look Chrysler, he stepped down as chairman and CEO three months earlier than planned.

“I told John that Congress and the country weren’t going to act until we’d staged a morality play,” Wendell Larsen, then Chrysler’s vice president for public affairs, later recalled, “and I told him how he’d been cast: John Riccardo takes on himself all the sins of commission and omission, we drive him into the woods, and the company is pure again.”

Larsen was quoted in “New Deals: The Chrysler Revival and the American System” (1985), by Robert B. Reich and John D. Donahue. So in September 1979, cit-

ing personal health issues as well as his own association “with the past management of a troubled company,” Riccardo stepped down. A month later, when the House Banking Committee held a hearing on the proposed loan guarantees, it was Iacocca who presented the company’s case.

In January 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation providing Chrysler with \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees, in exchange for federal oversight of the company’s business operations. Under Iacocca, Chrysler ended up using \$1.2 billion of the available funds and paid back the guaranteed loans in 1983, seven years earlier than required. The automaker was on stronger footing when Iacocca retired on Jan. 1, 1993.

In 1998, Chrysler was acquired by Germany’s Daimler-Benz, which sold it in 2007 to New York-based Cerberus Capital Management.

Two years later, Chrysler filed for a government-backed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, emerging as Chrysler Group, majority-owned by Italy’s Fiat.

A spokesman for the modern iteration of the company, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, wasn’t immediately available for comment on the U.S. Presidents Day holiday.

The Chrysler turnaround of the 1980s made a star of Iacocca, who personally vouched for his cars in acclaimed television commercials. Riccardo entered a

quiet retirement, though he did receive praise in Iacocca’s memoir.

“Although it meant the end of his own career, he bent over backward to make sure that the transition would go as smoothly as possible,” Iacocca wrote. “He blew himself out of the water to bring Chrysler back to life. And that is the test of a real hero.”

John Joseph Riccardo was born on July 2, 1924, in Little Falls, New York, the son of a bicycle maker, according to a 1975 profile in the New York Times.

He joined Chrysler in 1959 as a financial officer after working as an accountant at Touche, Ross, Bailey & Smart, a predecessor of today’s Deloitte LLP. Over the years his titles included vice president of Chrysler of Canada, sales manager at the Dodge division and assistant general manager of the Chrysler-Plymouth division.

He served as a corporal in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps during World War II, then received bachelor and master’s degrees in economics from the University of Michigan, the Times said.

Riccardo was named Chrysler’s president in a management shakeup in January 1970, succeeding Virgil E. Boyd, who became vice chairman, a new post. Townsend’s retirement in July 1975 prompted Riccardo’s elevation to chairman and CEO.

He had five children with his wife, Thelma.

## Jake Page, versatile writer on science and American Indians, dies at 80

BY MATT SCHUDEL  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Jake Page, a versatile journalist and author who published dozens of books, largely about science, natural history and American Indian culture, and who was the founding editor of Smithsonian Books and a longtime contributor to Smithsonian magazine, died Feb. 10 at his home in Lyons, Colorado. He was 80.

The cause was vascular disease, said a stepdaughter, Lindsey Truitt.

Page began his career as an editor at a New York publishing house, knowing next to nothing about science. When his company, Doubleday, formed a partnership with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, he was put in charge of a collaborative effort to publish general-interest books on animals and science.

“My job was to edit them so that any idiot could read them,” he said in a 2014 interview with Rio Nuevo Publishers in Arizona. “I was any idiot.”

As the editor of Natural History Press and Natural History magazine, Page embarked on an unexpected career that made him one of the country’s most prolific and accomplished masters of popular science writing. He published almost 50 books, about half of them with co-authors, covering diverse topics such as animals, earthquakes, mythology and women’s roles in prehistoric times. He also wrote a series of mystery novels set in the Southwest, as well as several books about American Indians.

After working in New York publishing circles, including a stint as chief editor of Walker Publishing, Page came to Washington in 1970 as the science editor of the fledgling Smithsonian magazine. He helped shape the style of the monthly journal, commissioning articles and writing many.

For several years, he wrote a monthly column, “Phenomena, Comments and Notes,” in which he let his mind roam across the broad world of science and research undertaken by scientists and scholars at the Smithsonian museums.

Many of his articles from Smithsonian and other mag-

azines appeared in two collections, “Pastorale” (1985) and “Songs to Birds” (1993).

In 1976, Page became the founding editor of Smithsonian Books, which he led for four years. He also was the first editor of the Smithsonian’s Air & Space magazine, which premiered in 1985.

Beginning in the 1970s, Page frequently visited the Southwest, often with his wife, photographer Susanne Anderson Page. They spent several years working on a story about the Hopi Indians for National Geographic and published several books together about native cultures of the Southwest.

“Over the years,” Page wrote in his 2003 book, “In the Hands of the Great Spirit: The 20,000-Year History of American Indians,” “I came to feel comfortable among . . . Indian people, more so in fact than among many groups of my own people.”

“In the Hands of the Great Spirit,” a comprehensive look at more than 500 North American native peoples across the centuries, was perhaps Page’s monumental achievement. In a review in The Washington Post, columnist Colman McCarthy called the book “judicious, as well as flowing, lucid and satisfying.”

When Page had difficulty persuading editors to publish stories about stolen Indian artifacts, he struck on the idea of turning his research into fiction. In the 1980s and 1990s, he published a well-received series of novels featuring a detective named Mo Bowdre, who solved art thefts and other crimes in the Southwest.

“Page has one of the more interesting detectives to come down the mystery pike in a long time,” reviewer Diana Pinckley wrote in the New Orleans Times-Picayune in 1994. “Mo Bowdre is a man so big he has his chairs custom-made, he’s a sculptor, and he’s blind.”

In a strange case of life imitating art, years after Page began writing his mystery series, he encountered a blind forensic anthropologist in New Mexico. He wrote about Marsha Ogilvie for Smithsonian magazine in 2001:

“Scientists say we have become ‘gracile’ rather than ‘less robust.’ Ogilvie sometimes uses the word ‘wimpy.’ There is nothing wimpy about Ogilvie herself, except

perhaps her modern bone structure. She had had to make the transition from seeing to not seeing when she was 27, the result of diabetes. Up to then, she had raced cars at rallies, collected fossils with family and friends, and was studying anthropology at Southern Methodist University. She was just one course shy of her undergraduate degree when she became blind.”

James Keena Page Jr. was born Jan. 24, 1936, in Boston and grew up in Chappaqua, New York. His father was a lawyer.

Page, who was known as Jake from an early age, graduated from Princeton University in 1958. He received a master’s degree in 1959 from a short-lived publishing program at New York University, then joined the Anchor Books division of Doubleday.

He wryly noted in the 2014 interview for Rio Nuevo Publishers that he urged his company to “publish a fascinating trilogy by an English author,” but the top editor decided to pass on J.R.R. Tolkien’s Hobbit books.

Even while writing fiction, books on science and sweeping surveys of Indian life, Page maintained a busy schedule as a freelance writer. He often wrote for Smithsonian and other magazines, including stories about 19th-century polar expeditions, art patron Mabel Dodge Luhan, Western novelist Zane Grey, vintage baseball and the medical miracle that is the humble aspirin.

All his stories were written in his characteristically graceful prose, as Page explained complex matters with simplicity, humor and clarity. After casually mentioning the Lone Ranger in his 2001 Smithsonian story about aspirin, Page quickly hit his stride:

“Thus did I metaphorically mount my great horse Silver and ride off into the microscopic wild lands of biochemistry. There, in and around every cell and through every vessel flow innumerable kinds of proteins, all in bewildering profusion, summoning each other to duty, catalyzing activities, changing form in a cascading continuum of mini-functions — the constantly changing chemical labyrinth that runs the overall operation that is you or me.”

## Heisman winner Lattner dies at 83

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

College football legend Johnny Lattner, the 1953 Heisman Trophy winner, died Friday night at age 83.

Lattner was a two-time All-American at Notre Dame and served as a running back, defensive back, punter and kick returner.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Lattner was battling lung cancer.

His death was confirmed by Notre Dame and the school held a moment of silence for him before Saturday’s men’s basketball game against Louisville.

Lattner helped Notre Dame to a 9-0-1 record in 1953 and edged Paul Giel of Minnesota in the Heisman balloting, becoming the only Chicago native to receive the award. He won the coveted award despite not leading the Fighting Irish in any statistical category.

Winning the Heisman in the 1950s didn’t come with the hype that the award prompts in the current era.

“I don’t even remember what day of the week it was, but I was told to be in my dorm room in case the call came,” Lattner told Notre Dame’s website recently.

“At 4 p.m., Moose Krause, our athletic director, called the pay phone at the end of the fourth-floor hallway at Alumni Hall to tell me I won.”

Lattner rushed for 651 yards on 134 carries and had 14 receptions for 204 yards that season, and averaged 41.4 yards and scored two touchdowns on eight kickoff returns.

Lattner won the Maxwell Award in both 1952 and 1953. He rushed for 732 yards and had 17 receptions for 252 yards in 1952.

He finished his three-season college career with 3,095 all-purpose yards — a school record that held up until 1979 — and 13 interceptions, which ranks third in school history.

“We just didn’t have specialists in one-platoon football,” Lattner said. “It was a challenging type game because you had to be mentally and physically prepared to play 60 minutes. You had to spread your talent all over the field.”

Lattner was inducted into the College Hall of Fame in 1979.



SHELDON F. EASTMAN

BUCKSPORT - Sheldon F. Eastman, 66, of Bucksport died unexpectedly Friday February 12, 2016 at his home. He was born in Castine on April 14, 1949 the son of G. Frederick and Thelma (Davis) Eastman.

Sheldon graduated from Bucksport High School, served in the U. S. Air Force from 1968 to 1971. He owned and operated S. F. Eastman Concrete Contractor; a company started by his father and is now run by his son Sean. Sheldon served as the vice president of Hillside Cemetery Assoc. in Bucksport.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sally (Gould) Eastman; one son, Sean Eastman of Bucksport; one grandson, Spencer Eastman, to whom he was an extremely proud “Papa;” his mother, Thelma Eastman of Bucksport; one sister, Regilyn Gunn of Lewiston and her children, Peter Stewart of Bucksport, Randy Stewart of Florida, Angela Moreno of Bridgeton and Michael Gunn of Litchfield; and brothers and sisters in law, James Gould and wife Phyllis of Georgia and Dr. William Gould and wife Gail of Calais. He was predeceased by his father.

In keeping with Sheldon’s wishes there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Hillside Cemetery Assoc., 43 US HWY 1, Verona Island, ME 04416, or to Little Yellow School House, P.O. Box X, Bucksport, ME 04416. A private graveside service will be held in the spring. Arrangements are under the direction of Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Bucksport.

### In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of  
**TREVEN JACOB CUNNINGHAM**  
Feb 16, 1998 - Dec 03, 1999



Happy 18th Birthday to you in Heaven  
We miss you so much, our dear sweet Treven

We long to see that sweet smiling face.  
No one could ever take your place.

Our hearts are in wonder, of who you might have been.  
We will have the answers when we meet again.

Till then our sweet, beautiful, handsome boy.  
Know that your memories fill our hearts with so much joy.

In Loving Memory Of  
**GERRY BERNARD**  
April 13, 1933 - Feb. 16, 2011



Lovingly remembered by family.

### Obituary Department

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ALICE WEATHERBY

BOWIE, MD - Alice E. Weatherby, 96, died of cancer January 31, 2016, at Collington Retirement Community. She was born February 11, 1919, in Somerville, MA, daughter of Arthur H. and Alice Lillian (Dugan) Christie.

Her determination to be active continued until the end. Alice graduated from the University of Maine in 1941 with a B.A. in history. She met Bev Weatherby, the love of her life and her spouse of 69 years, in Grand Lake Stream, ME, where he grew up in his family’s sporting camp business. Bev also graduated from the University of Maine, and the couple married in 1943. Alice taught high school in Springfield and Machias, ME. Later the couple owned and operated Weatherby’s Fishing Resort, where she did much of the cooking, until 1975. At Weatherby’s they entertained many well-known people, such as Ted Williams, Bert Lahr, General Jimmy Doolittle and the writer, Hal Foster. A few years after retirement, they moved to St. Petersburg, FL, while summering in Forest City, ME. They enjoyed bringing food and cheer to many of the elderly in St. Pete, where they delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years. Alice enjoyed her 24 summers in Forest City where she helped found the local book club, maintained a flower and vegetable garden and was close to her relatives. Forest City and St. Pete, where they particularly enjoyed the Florida Symphony and dancing at the Coliseum, were the best years of her life. For many years, in addition to birding in ME and FL, they took 20 Elder Hostel trips, many of them to birding sites throughout the world.

After living year round in St. Pete for several years, the couple returned to ME to be closer to Alice’s sister, Ruth Wheaton. They moved to the Ellen Leach Retirement Home in Brewer, ME. In 2014, after losing her sister and husband, Alice moved to the Collington Retirement Community in Bowie, MD in order to be closer to her daughter. Alice will be greatly missed by her friends in Forest City, ME, the Ellen Leach Home in Brewer, and Collington. She was grateful for the many friendships shared with residents of Collington and for the caring staff.

Alice is survived by one daughter, Diana, and Patrick Knight of New Carrollton, MD. She is also survived by three nephews and their families. She was predeceased by her husband, Bev, and an infant daughter, Elizabeth.

A service honoring Alice’s life will be held late spring in Brewer. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Alice’s memory to Grand Lake Stream Congregational Church, P.O. Box 18, Grand Lake Stream, ME 04637 or American Institute for Cancer Research, 1759 R St. NW, Washington, DC 20009 or Woodie Wheaton Land Trust, 2 Grove Road, Forest City Township, ME 04413.

### Relay for Life plans kickoff event

SKOWHEGAN — The American Cancer Society’s annual Relay For Life of Somerset County will officially kick off the fundraising season at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, at Skowhegan Area Middle School, 15 Academy Circle.

All interested residents and those already registered are invited to attend.

To learn how you can help “paint the world purple” and save lives from cancer by fundraising to support American Cancer Society research, advocacy and patient services, visit relayforlife.org, or contact Mike Trafton at mike.trafton@cancer.org.

The kickoff preceded the Relay For Life of Somerset County, which is slated for June 11.