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Vince Perone, 1929-2003

Furman lost one of its strongest supporters and Greenville lost one of its leading citizens October 21 when Vince Perone '54 died of a rare blood disorder at the age of 73.

"He was deservedly loved by many," businessman C. Dan Joyner '59 told *The Greenville News*. "I don't think anyone who ever met him didn't like him."

An All-State and All-Southern Conference football lineman at Furman, Perone, a native of Hackensack, N.J., went on to success as a restaurateur — a vocation that started during his student days.

Perone's college career was interrupted by service in the Marines during the Korean conflict. When he returned, he began selling hero sandwiches to fellow students as a way to help support his family, which at the time included wife Joyce and sons Vince '75 and Steve. By the time he graduated, he had expanded his business to local mills and drugstores.

Eventually, he would open a delicatessen and ultimately the popular Vince Perone's Restaurant, plus assorted auxiliary enterprises. As the family business grew, he often credited its success to the culinary talents of his mother, Jennie De Francesco Perone, affectionately known as "Mama Perone."

Perone was a former director of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, which named him Small Businessman of the Year in 1981. Active in the United Way and the Greenville Touchdown Club, he served on the boards of the March of Dimes, YMCA and Palmetto Bank, among others. He sponsored the James Perone Memorial Award, which recognizes a city police officer for distinguished service and is named for his father, who was chief of police in Hackensack.

Earlier this year, Greenville City Council named the intersection of Pleasantburg and East Antrim drives near his restaurant "Vince Perone Corners."

Perone's love for alma mater, where he was an assistant football coach for several years, was unwavering. A leading Paladin Club donor, he was a catalyst in the drive to build Paladin Stadium and provided support for the band program and other campus projects. In January 1989, after the football team won the NCAA I-AA



A. DAVID CROSBY

After organizing the hugely successful parade to honor the 1988 national champions, Vince Perone received a well-deserved victory ride.

championship, he organized a parade through downtown Greenville to honor the team. He is a member of the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame.

His support for the Furman band led to the creation of an annual honor, the Vince Perone Outstanding Bandsman Award. Earlier this year, the Furman Football Players Association Golf Tournament was renamed the Vince Perone Classic.

As President David Shi said in *The Greenville News*, "Vince shared his boundless passions with us all. With Vince, what you got was what you saw . . . whatever the need, whatever the cause, [he] was there to lend a helping hand."

Perone is survived by his wife; both sons and a daughter, Sheri; two sisters and two brothers; and seven grandchildren.

Memorials: Furman Paladin Club, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613; Cleveland Street YMCA Building Fund, 721 Cleveland St., Greenville, S.C. 29601; First Presbyterian Church, 200 W. Washington St., Greenville, S.C. 29601; or a charity of one's choice.

■ **Dorothy Eugenia Topple** and Brian Patrick Cayce, December 28, 2002. They live in Decatur, Ga. She is a program officer for microfinance with The Rockdale Foundation. ■ **Michelle Paige Wilbanks** and William Jeffrey Spivey, June 7. They live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she works for Wake Forest University School of Medicine and he is a technical services manager with Synagro, Inc. ■ **BIRTHS:** Scott and **Mary Beth Jones Adams**, a daughter, Laura Elizabeth, April 23. After serv-

ing as missionaries in Malaysia, they are now associated with the Baptist Mission in Tok, Alaska. ■ **Stephen Keown** and **Kristen Anderson**, a daughter, Sophia Grace Anderson Keown, February 7, Sugar Hill, Ga. ■ **Andrew** and **Lydia Kapp** '95 **Cooper**, a daughter, Maria Elizabeth, June 18, 2002, Aiken, S.C. ■ **Brian** and **Jennie Edens**, a son, Gavin Cole, June 18, Greenville. Brian works for Datastream Systems, Inc., as manager of the company's pharmaceutical clients in North

America. ■ **Greg** and **Susan Flowers Elliott**, a son, Scott Gregory, May 29, Greenville. Greg is an engineer in the Life Sciences Project Management Department with Fluor Daniel. ■ **Michael** and **Alison Fey**, a son, Michael Fitzgerald, June 6, 2002, Charlotte, N.C. Michael is managing director at Patriarch Partners, a firm that purchases and manages distressed debt. ■ **Jamie** and **Amy McMahan Jenes**, a daughter, Makayla Elizabeth, May 18, Knoxville, Tenn. ■ **David**

and **Sarah Altomose Lourie**, a daughter, Rebecca Barbara, December 16, 2002, Los Olivos, Calif. ■ **Wayne** and Courtney **Pendle**, a son, William Cole, March 28, Snellville, Ga. ■ **Mark** and **Austin Shelley**, a daughter, Emilyanne Grace, June 3, Chapin, S.C. ■ **Chad** and **Cindy Simmons**, a daughter, Ann Marie, May 26, Birmingham, Ala. Chad is an account representative with Tyco Healthcare Kendall. ■ **John** and **Mariah Brown Spengler**, a daughter, Caroline Ann, July 31, Gaines-