



## Alfred James Lercher

July 12, 1918 - July 6, 2014

Alfred James Lercher, one of seven children born to the union of the late Henry Adam and Elizabeth Arthelia (James) Lercher, was born July 12, 1918 in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois.

As a young boy, Alfred and the family moved to Missouri and he began attending school in the Dublin area. He attended Richland High School from 1933 to 1937 and graduated from high school on May 14, 1937. An experience that Alfred enjoyed sharing with family and friends was that he was a member of the 1935 basketball team that had more success than any other Richland team at the time. They were coached by Ralph Hamilton and under his careful instruction; the team won the Frisco League and the District Tournament which earned them the right to go to the State competition. During that time period, there were no classifications of schools and they were seeded to play Kansas City Northeast High School. They were defeated, but not their pride. They had attained an honor that no other basketball team from Richland had attained.

On June 29, 1940, Alfred was united in marriage to Florence Kitty Miles. They shared over 58 years of marriage together and were blessed with two children, Larry and Elaine.

While still in high school, Alfred began working during the summers for

Bohannon and Son and upon graduation, he became a full time employee. From 1941 to 1948, Alfred worked in construction. During this time, he spent two years in the shipyards as an electrician foreman in Texas. After leaving Texas, Alfred began a successful career in sales and delivery with the Taystee Bread Company of Springfield. He formed lasting friendships with the customers that he served while delivering bread.

Alfred began his career as a public servant in 1965 when he became an Alderman for the City of Richland. He served in that capacity from 1965-1977. In 1977, he was elected Mayor of Richland and served until in 1978, he accepted an appointment as Pulaski County Clerk. He filled out the term of Lynn Harris who resigned due to ill health. He was then elected to two four year terms serving until 1986. During his time as Clerk, he was instrumental in laying the groundwork for a new courthouse for Pulaski County. He also served as the Chairman of the Commission that was responsible for managing the funds for the care of the new building.

Alfred was elected for a second time as Mayor of Richland and served from 1989-1991. Alfred also served on several committees for the City of Richland; some of which were the Housing Authority Board (1976-1977), Planning and Zoning Committee, and chairman of the City Utilities Board (1987-1989, 1991-1994, and 2000-2008).

One of his greatest achievements was his participation in the construction of the Warren Senior Center in Richland. He was proud of the facility that he was able to help Gordon and Maxine Warren build, and took great pride in making sure the facility ran smoothly. He served as President of the board for many years, and even after his health declined, he was still interested in the progress of the center.

Alfred was a 63 year member of the Richland Masonic Lodge 385 AF & AM.

Alfred was also a long time member of the Richland United Methodist Church and he chaired the Finance and Trustee Boards for many years. He was very proud of the garden that was constructed on the site of the old church parsonage. He donated a very nice iron gate and fence in memory of Florence after she passed away.

In addition to serving his community, one of Alfred's greatest joys was his family. He loved going to family reunions and most importantly, loved spending time with his immediate family; whether it was going to races and ballgames with his grandsons or watching his two great granddaughters play. He loved his family dearly and would do anything for them.

Alfred went home to be with his Lord early Sunday morning July 6, 2014 in Richland Care Center having attained the age of 95 years, 11 months and 24 days. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Alfred leaves to cherish his memory, his two children: Larry Lercher and wife Karolyn of Waynesville, MO and Elaine Curran and husband Bill of O'Fallon, MO; two grandsons: Layne Lercher and wife Becky of Waynesville, MO and Brock Lercher and wife Kasie of Richland, MO; two great granddaughters: Lauryn Lynne Lercher and Brooklynn Faith Lercher; dear friend: Sarah J. Wall of Richland, MO; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Alfred was preceded in death by his wife, Florence and six siblings: Cedric Earl, Walter Lee, Mary Emma, Dorothy Maureen, Helen Margaret and Robert Henry.

A fellow community leader, Gordon Warren, summed up Alfred's life by saying

“I am convinced that there is no greater gift one can bestow than the gift of self. Of this to our community and county Alfred Lercher has given generously.”

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, 2014 in the Memorial Chapel of Richland with Rev. Stanley E. Jones and Rev. Pryor Ray Prewett officiating. Pianist Marleen Brown accompanied Becky Lercher as she sang “Peace in the Valley” and “Whispering Hope”. Becky also sang “It Is Well With My Soul”. Serving as escorts were Bobby Baker, Ken Struckhoff, Troy York, Gary Brown, Wayne Anderson and Danny Graves. Serving as honorary escorts were Don Young, Bruce Warren, Judge Greg Warren, Ret. Judge Doug Long, Bill Debo, Ret. Judge Tracy Storie, Bob Shockley and Earnie Carlton. Burial followed in the Oaklawn Cemetery of Richland, Missouri.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Alfred Lercher to the Warren Senior Center and may be left at the funeral home

# Cemetery Details

## Oaklawn Cemetery

Richland, MO 65556

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapel of Richland  
715 E. Jefferson Avenue  
Richland, MO 65556  
(573) 765-5300  
[richlandmc@memorialchapelsandcrematory.com](mailto:richlandmc@memorialchapelsandcrematory.com)

## Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Chapel of Richland  
715 E. Jefferson Avenue  
Richland, MO 65556  
(573) 765-5300  
[richlandmc@memorialchapelsandcrematory.com](mailto:richlandmc@memorialchapelsandcrematory.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Alfred James Lercher* ”



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - July 10, 2014 at 08:24 AM



“ *Alfred James Lercher* ”

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *SARA JONES lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher* ”



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**SARA JONES** - August 08, 2014 at 01:19 AM



“ *Pamela Cox lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher* ”



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**Pamela Cox** - July 29, 2014 at 03:55 PM

LB

“ Larry Bowling lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher



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Larry Bowling - July 22, 2014 at 11:12 AM

DM

“ Alfred was a fine, long-time friend. My family home was across from his residence on Jefferson Ave. We could not have had better neighbors and shared what became many memories over the years. It was in their home where my sister Wanda Sue was first discovered by Florence to have serious musical talent, being able to play their piano at the age of 6. They put up with me as a teen driving too fast in and out of our driveway.

Alfred was always ready to lend a helping hand. When Glenn Thomas and I entered the U of MO/ Columbia, we knew if we hitch hiked to Tuscumbia and arrived ahead of the Taystee bread truck, we always had a ride to Richland, That ride meant a lot to two boys who were homesick for the old hometown. Thanks Alfred for your selfless heart and wonderful personality. Your friend, Darrell Melton

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darrell melton - July 10, 2014 at 08:43 PM

JT

“ Great memories coming to Mo and hanging out with him and Great Great Aunt Flo. One year we were playing outside and a bird pooped on my head. I cried, they laughed and tried to tell me it wasn't a big deal. I look forward to seeing you both in heaven when God calls my name.

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June Taylor - July 10, 2014 at 09:27 AM

JD

“ *Al Lercher was a dedicated public servant and a wonderful man. He was a tireless supporter of Richland. His family should be proud of many contributions to mankind.*

*Jim Dickerson  
Camdenton*

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**Jim Dickerson** - July 09, 2014 at 08:26 AM

KC

“ *Our condolences to Al's family. His passing is such a tremendous loss and our hearts are heavy knowing the pain and sadness that you all are going through. We had the pleasure of getting to know Al (and Florence) after Elaine married into the Curran family. Although we didn't get to know him as well as we would have liked due to distance, we felt like we knew him well from the many conversations we have had with Elaine over the years. Elaine shared so many stories with us and always spoke about "dad" with so much love and affection -- perfect earthly father comes to mind! What a blessing to have had that kind of love and relationship. Al was blessed to have such loving and caring family members by his side daily.*

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**Kim and Steve Curran** - July 08, 2014 at 10:20 PM

KC

“ *Kim & Steve Curran lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Kim & Steve Curran** - July 08, 2014 at 03:01 PM

SR

“ *Shaun Roland lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Shaun Roland** - July 08, 2014 at 02:43 PM

MB

“ *I have many memories of Alfred; the first of which he was delivering Taystee bread when I worked for H.E. Warren and sons the summer of 1956. He always had a ready smile and a moment for small talk. He will be greatly missed,*

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**Millie Howlett Brotherton** - July 08, 2014 at 01:12 PM

CH

“ *Chrissy Housewright lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Chrissy Housewright** - July 08, 2014 at 01:01 PM

VW

“ *Vicky Walker lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Vicky Walker** - July 08, 2014 at 09:40 AM

DB

“ Gena and I were saddened to hear about Alfred's passing. He was a wonderful man who was a true servant, to his family, his friends, and his community. We offer our sincere condolences as you mourn his passing. May God comfort you as you hold on to the promises that are found in his word.

*David & Gena Brown*

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**David Brown** - July 08, 2014 at 09:27 AM

ME

“ Please allow me to offer my condolences to the, Lercher family with these comforting words: "With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say: "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." And the One seated on the throne said: "Look! I am making all things new." Also, he says: "Write, because these words are faithful and true." - Rev. 21:3-5. I am very sorry for your loss. May God's Word comfort you and your family. Sincerely, Meryl ~ [crochetmerylsway@gmail.com](mailto:crochetmerylsway@gmail.com)

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**Meryl** - July 08, 2014 at 08:02 AM

TT

“ Tom And Lynda Thomas lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher



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**tom and lynda thomas** - July 08, 2014 at 07:02 AM

TT

“ some of our best memories are visiting with uncle Alfred and aunt Florence . we always felt welcomed and they made the family reunions fun for all. we will miss him as we do aunt Florence.

tom and lynda thomas - July 08, 2014 at 07:01 AM

MW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Mr. Al's family and friends at his loss. He always had such a sweet smile and a kind word, with a little twinkle in his eyes each time we saw him. Lately, he did not have that twinkle. But we know at this moment he is rejoicing with his Savior and seeing all those family and friends who have gone on before. We are praying for strength and peace now for all his family.

Martin and Georgia White - July 08, 2014 at 01:11 AM

LH

“ My thoughts to the Lercher family during this sad time.

Luge Hardman - July 07, 2014 at 08:15 PM

MP

“ Melba Patterson lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher



Melba Patterson - July 07, 2014 at 07:39 PM

DW

“ *What great memories I have of Uncle Alfred and our Lercher Reunions in Richland. My Grandma Hall sure had a fantastic brother. I remember how him and Aunt Florence opened their house to us when we were in town. So sorry for your loss. Sending my prayers thoughts and hugs to his children and grandchildren.*  
*Debbie Wheeler*

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**Debbie Wheeler** - July 07, 2014 at 05:07 PM

AC

“ *Annette M. Catts sent a virtual gift in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Annette M. Catts** - July 07, 2014 at 04:20 PM

AC

*May the Lord bless the family of Alfred Lercher with peace and comfort as you remember the blessings of his life and influence in your family and this community.*

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**Annette M. Catts** - July 07, 2014 at 04:22 PM

PC

“ *Pamela Cox lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Pamela Cox** - July 07, 2014 at 03:24 PM

RP

“ *Richard And Shirley Profest lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Richard and Shirley Profest** - July 07, 2014 at 03:22 PM

SL

“ *Stephanie Leuthen lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Stephanie Leuthen** - July 07, 2014 at 03:05 PM

TD

“ *Trudy Duncan lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Trudy Duncan** - July 07, 2014 at 01:57 PM

TD

*I am so fortunate to have been his great niece. Some of the best memories I have are of Uncle Alfred, Aunt Florence and Elaine. It is a very sad day. Condolences to entire Lercher family*

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**Trudy Duncan** - July 07, 2014 at 02:02 PM

DC

“ *Danny Curry lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Danny Curry** - July 07, 2014 at 01:38 PM

DW

“ *Debbie Walker lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Debbie Walker** - July 07, 2014 at 11:57 AM

PS

“ *May you all find comfort in the many memories you all have shared and in knowing that your loved one is safe at home.....*

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**Pam Seda** - July 07, 2014 at 11:24 AM

LL

“ *Linda Levett lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Linda Levett** - July 07, 2014 at 11:22 AM

RG

“ *Robin Goodin lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Robin Goodin** - July 07, 2014 at 10:49 AM

CC

“ *Christine Cook lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Christine Cook** - July 07, 2014 at 10:27 AM

RG

“ *Rebekah Guffie lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Rebekah Guffie** - July 07, 2014 at 10:22 AM

WS

“ *Wendy Schrader lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Wendy Schrader** - July 07, 2014 at 09:35 AM

BA

“ *Bill And Sue Anderson lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Bill and Sue Anderson** - July 07, 2014 at 09:06 AM

BA

“ *To the Alfred Lercher family: We are deeply sorry for your loss. I did not know Mr. Lercher very well but I do know he was a sharp dresser. And had a great personality. William (Bill) and Sue want to tell each one of you how sorry we are with your loss. We are praying for you and know God is comforting you.*

*William( Bill) and Sue Anderson*

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**Bill and Sue Anderson** - July 07, 2014 at 09:05 AM

JH

“ *Jessica Harmon lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Jessica Harmon** - July 07, 2014 at 08:38 AM

GA

“ *Gabriela Arango lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Gabriela Arango** - July 07, 2014 at 08:30 AM

DL

“ *Dixie Lorenz lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Dixie Lorenz** - July 07, 2014 at 08:27 AM

JH

“ *Joy Herndon lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Joy Herndon** - July 07, 2014 at 08:26 AM

BA

“ *To the family of Alfred Lercher. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Bill and Sue Anderson** - July 07, 2014 at 08:11 AM

MS

“ *SO VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.  
PRAYERS GO OUT TO HIS FAMILY AND  
LOVED ONES, FOR PEACE , COMFORT AND  
STRENGTH.*

*MARLIN STEVENS*



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**MARLIN STEVENS** - July 07, 2014 at 07:56 AM

BF

“ *Burzio-Roca Family lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Burzio-Roca Family** - July 07, 2014 at 07:54 AM

GW

“ *George And Linda Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**George and Linda Wheeler** - July 07, 2014 at 05:24 AM

TF

“ *Dear Elaine and Larry and your families*

*First we are thinking of your Dad and the wonderful contributions he made to our communities for so many years. He defined leadership both in Richland and Pulaski County to so many of us and he was always a man we enjoyed visiting with and he was respected by everyone he came into contact with.*

*Secondly, we send to each of you and your families our thoughts and prayers. We were fortunate enough to see your Dad as a community pillar and each of you were blessed to have him as a Father, father-in-law, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and the senior member of your family. We send prayers that God will lift each of you up and carry you through the days ahead as your hearts hurt from his physical loss on this earth. We pray for strength for each one of you to pull all those wonderful memories that both he and your Mother together gave to each of you. I join so many others now in celebrating his many contributions and celebrating his life. We thank him for showing all of us what community leadership is all about!*

*The Morrissey Family  
Christia and John*

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**The Morrissey Family** - July 07, 2014 at 04:34 AM

WA

“ *Wayne And Carol Ann Anderson lit a candle  
in memory of Alfred James Lercher*



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**Wayne and Carol Ann Anderson** - July 06, 2014 at 09:40 PM

LL

“ Larry, Karolyn and families, so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Lois and Leroy and families

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**LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON** - July 06, 2014 at 09:34 PM

LL

“ LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON lit a candle in memory of Alfred James Lercher



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**LOIS AND LEROY LOFTON** - July 06, 2014 at 09:32 PM