



REMEMBERING James Cervinka

The gear industry lost one of its iconic figures in July when James Cervinka passed away at the age of 92. Jim was CEO and one of the founders of Arrow Gear. For 65 years, he was a gear man, and I can't help but feeling that his absence shrinks the gear industry by far more than the loss of just one man.

As a U.S. Navy veteran who served in WWII, Jim typified what is often called "The Greatest Generation," a different breed of men who were in many ways larger than life. Like many of his generation, he went off to war and faced situations where failure meant death. Jim, my father and much of that generation came back from World War II and applied that same "can do" attitude to their vocations, driving America forward to heights never before seen.

He was a unique man, and a character who will be missed. One of Jim's great loves was playing golf, and it is part of industry lore that Jim, every few years, had a new golf cart "enhanced" at Arrow Gear so that it drove more like a sports car than a puttering golf cart.

But I will miss Jim for far more than his personal legacy. I had known him for 48 years—my entire professional career, and—more importantly—his family and mine share a long history in the gear industry. When Jim started Arrow Gear in 1947, with his partner Frank E. Pielsticker and their extremely talented associate Ernie Kauzlarich, it was with used machinery, much of it purchased from my father, Harold, who at the time worked for *his* father, Charlie, at Machinery & Electric Motors in Chicago. Jim always specialized in Gleason bevel gearing, which was the most difficult and complex type of gears manufactured. He built the business with very hard work, ingenuity and perseverance. My father always spoke with admiration for Jim and what he accomplished professionally. This relationship between Jim and my family continued when my father started Cadillac Machinery in 1950, and continued up until his passing.

Over the last half dozen years or so, I've spent a lot of time over at Arrow Gear, whether as a machine tool dealer, as publisher of *Gear Technology*, or as a member of the board of directors for Citizens for American Manufacturing (CAM), which was started by Joe Arvin, Arrow's president.

Whenever I visited Arrow, I always made a point of stopping by Jim's office to say hello and to see how he was. Every time I saw him he would tell me how much he admired *Gear Technology*, and he would always thank me for the service we provide the industry. I guess, in many respects, we were a mutual admiration society of two.

I know that very late in his life, when most men are considering taking their chips off the table, Jim was "all in" to help Arrow Gear by investing in the latest technology and staying on the leading edge by providing the finest aircraft gearing available in the world. He was not only proud of the quality of the gears Arrow produced, but was also very proud of contributing components to some of the most memorable military and civilian aircraft produced during his career.

While he, Frank and Ernie almost literally built their business with their bare hands, he had the foresight to bring in and turn over the presidency to Joe Arvin, who has been there for 40 years. Joe brought a different skill set to Arrow and he has been an important component of Arrow's growth and success. Too often I've seen extremely talented, focused entrepreneurs drive their companies upward, only to crest and fall when they got beyond their own skills, talents and experience. This didn't happen to Jim.

It was only 10 days before he passed away that I had the opportunity to poke my head into his office one last time, and true to form—he called me in to sit down again and thank me for what I've done with *Gear Technology* magazine. He was expansive in his interests, fiercely loyal to his family, his company and his employees and always generous with his compliments.

I was lucky enough to have been raised by a man who typified this generation, giving me his work ethic and values, but I am also grateful for the unusual and wonderful opportunity I've had to work with many other individuals like Jim Cervinka. I know how sorely we will miss them in the future. Thank you Jim, and may you rest in peace.

Michael Goldstein,
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

P.S. Normally this editorial would have been written about IMTS, and we haven't forgotten about this very important show. With the strong manufacturing environment we've experienced over the last several years, it's more important than ever for you to consider attending IMTS (September 10–16 in Chicago). This opportunity comes only once every two years, so it's important that you see the latest technology that can help increase your productivity, flexibility, competitiveness and profitability in the coming years. For more information see our show coverage on pages 22–43.