

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

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Memorandum from: Jack B., Chairperson
Board of Trustees
George H., Chairperson
World Service Conference
Steve B., Chairperson
World Service Office Board of Directors

To the Fellowship:

JIMMY KINNON

Jimmy Kinnon, a co-founder of the Narcotics Anonymous Program, died Tuesday night in Sun Valley, California at the age of seventy-four. He had been suffering from throat cancer over the last couple years, and his health had been steadily declining. At his death, his hospital room was flooded with letters from all over the world, thanking him for all the hours he spent on the phone, patiently helping new groups to form and get stable, and from individuals who are all too aware that without his pioneering effort in bringing them a recovery program, they would be locked up somewhere or dead today. His story can be seen in the White Booklet under the heading, "We Do Recover."

Jimmy's last wishes were that members of the Fellowship send no flowers, but that instead we all put just that much more energy into helping the newcomer. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made, but members wishing to attend may make arrangements to be in the Los Angeles area within the next couple of days, and/or call the World Service Office for further information. You are asked not to call the family during this time of grief, but instead, anyone interested in helping the family may address correspondence to Betty at P.O. Box 1523, Sun Valley, CA 91353.

The real benefactor of Jimmy's efforts has always been and continues to be the one to whom Jimmy consistently devoted most of his time and energy—the individual addict seeking recovery. Whether over the phone across the ocean or over a cup of coffee across his living room, Jimmy devoted endless hours to helping the newcomer. Narcotics Anonymous is brimming today with stories of lives begun anew, families mended, "hopeless" people living responsible, productive lives. In this time of grief, it is abundantly clear to all that each of these success stories can be traced to the perseverance of the man who spent his life putting to rest what he called, "that tired, old lie": "Once an addict, always an addict." He taught us and he showed us—addicts do recover.