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### Remembering *JEMS* Founder Jim Page

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By Mike Taigman

It's September 6 and I am in my Clearwater, Florida, living room, peering out through the boarded windows watching the wind called Frances die down.

A bunch of friends called yesterday with the news that my old friend and the founder and publisher of *JEMS*, Jim Page, died while swimming.

I don't know what happens to you when the news comes that a longtime friend has passed away. For me, I find my mind immediately flashes to memories associated with the person who died. It's as if I'm searching for just the right memory to hold in my heart to comfort me through my grieving.

I'm fortunate to have lots of memories associated with Jim: Images of teaching quality management workshops together to debating the best EMS system design, and discussing the risks of flying small planes in the wind. My favorite one is a dinner that Jim and I shared in the mid-1980s at a small restaurant near his home in Carlsbad, California. It was one of those rare times when we were not working on a presentation, an article or some other project; we were just having dinner.

I have no recollection of how the conversation ended up where it did. I just remember Jim looking at me with misty eyes as he said, "It's so easy to forget that the ride that you're giving someone in the back of your ambulance may be their last ride, the last ride of any kind that they will ever take. It may be the last conversation that they have in their life. That's really what this EMS business is all about."

Yes, it is, my friend, yes, it is.

Mike's Web site is [www.miketaigman.com](http://www.miketaigman.com).

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