

# LEGACY DONOR 9

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## THE PURVEZ RUSTOMJI LEGACY

**DONOR: THE RUSTOMJI FAMILY  
USA**



Mr Purvez Rustomji

### To Give is to Receive

Purvez Shiavax Rustomji (1938-2010) always had a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. His life was suffused with a great passion for giving and an abundant love for the Zoroastrian community. His early years were spent in Quetta, Pakistan, a town that was dear to him for its wild roses, fruit trees, and life-affirming neighbours. Yet, even as a graduate from Pierre S. DuPont High School in Wilmington, Delaware, he had a passion for the innovative spirit of America. He later graduated from N.E.D. Engineering College in Karachi, Pakistan, and received his Masters in Structural Engineering from Columbia, Missouri. In 1979, after he settled with his family--wife Aban, son Arish, daughter Nerina--in Houston, he soon started his own business Coating Engineers Inc., later renamed Coating Industries Inc., which was renowned for delivering quality work.

As a founding member of the Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center, he was deeply committed to developing a religious home for Zoroastrians in Houston. Community members rightly claimed that he knew the placement of each and every brick in the building. His efforts to promote education in the Zoroastrian community were also on a national and international stage. For the World Zoroastrian Congress in Houston in 2000, Purvez and Aban developed Zoroastrian Field Service or ZFS, which funded 30 young students from India, Pakistan, Iran, and Australia to attend the Congress. With the profits of the 7th World Zoroastrian Congress held in 2000, Purvez was instrumental in the Congress Legacy scholarships for Houston students. On the national stage, Purvez was a keen advocate of the FEZANA scholarship program, and he drafted a Scholarship Endowment Policy.

Purvez was a visionary known for his heart, humility, humour, and character. He had the most gracious, engaging way of talking with everyone. He was also a man who had a gift for conceptualising projects in ways that he would claim only an engineer could. His love for making a contribution and talent for envisioning the future made him the best husband, father, son, and friend in the world.