



“Life is One Big Network”

Our industry and the world lost a good friend in December with the passing of Rick Rebel. He was an awesome guy with an easy-going personality, but a “git-'er-done” attitude. He was a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who always knew that these family members were his priority. But, he also touched thousands of others that call him “friend”.

Rick was a long-time member of OAHU, though many of our new members might not know him. Living and working Albany, he wasn't always front and center at all our meetings in Portland but if you needed something done, Rick would never say no. He always had time to share his knowledge and was instrumental in mentoring some the new agents in his office. He genuinely cared about others.

In business, he was past president of OAHU in 1996, but more important he was an industry advocate and spokesperson to the legislature and any civic/business group that would listen. Part of what made him special was his ability to talk “to” you rather than “at” you - even when he knew you didn't understand everything that he was saying. He could articulate why a single-payer system was not good for the country and consumers just as easily as he could rattle off a good joke. He was an avid golfer, accomplished musician and singer. He opened NAHU's Cap conference following 9/11 by singing Lee Greenwood's, “God Bless the USA” to a standing ovation.

Rick emceed quite a few of our state panel discussions because he could put all the panelists at ease. The many that knew Rick and were touched by his kindness and generosity, will miss his smile, jokes and personality that could fill a room. Heaven has one more member of that big rock 'n roll band.

Words written by longtime friend and colleague, Ruppert Reinstadler

“It's all about Relationships”

R. Rebel