

- 8/05/08

A Tribute To Bob Papich - 8/5/2008

Dear Family and Friends of Bob,

A sudden death is like an amputation. It takes away something we have always taken for granted and leaves us in a state of shock.

So it is today because just now we are mourning the loss of Bob. We didn't expect to lose him. We thought that he had a future in which to be a part of our lives. Fate, though, has played its part and Bob is gone and we are left stunned and sorrowful.

We are stunned because we did not have any time to prepare for this tragedy. We are stunned because we didn't have time to say goodbye. We are stunned because just now we cannot imagine a life without Bob Papich.

Every one of us comes into life with special talents, different skills. Each one of us affects others in many ways during our lifetimes. Bob did just that too. He made friends, he helped people, he made us laugh and today we are crying because of him.

Like all of us he too cried at times or felt sad and lonely. More often than not, though, he brought his vitality and charm into our lives. You could never ignore his presence. Bob was a bit like a firework. He brought colour and excitement with him. Sometimes louder than others, if you know what I mean !

He made friends as easily as he breathed. He had such a generous nature that everybody liked him and felt better for having met him. He was such fun that he was the life and soul of any party or gathering. Put simply you couldn't ignore Bob.

That's why it's going to be so lonesome without him. When we gather together as a group there will be an empty place, a story untold, a sports event without a director.

He was my business cohort, fellow board member, travel buddy and my dear friend.

We will miss Bob in lots of little ways and at all sorts of different times. We'll miss his cheery "Hello", his chatter on the phone, and his gruff voice. We'll miss him faults and all.



BOB PAPICH
SODA PRESIDENT





. . . [continued] . . .

Yes, Bob had faults but somehow they were endearing faults. You couldn't stay mad at him for long, no matter how hard you tried, or how much he upset you. The twinkle in his eyes as he came late to meet you always made you laugh even though you had intended being very angry indeed.

Bob had time for everyone and everyone had time for him. Today that time has run out and a very special person is lost to us. All of you who have come to share our loss know something of him that perhaps we don't know. It would help us fill the empty place in our hearts, if we all remember those good times we shared with Bob over the years.

Some day, we are told, time will heal our wounds. I know, though, that we will always carry the scars of his loss. The memory of Bob's smile will, though, remind us that we were lucky to have had him in our lives at all.

When we think of him we will, someday, think of him with gladness, because Bob was someone who brought gladness wherever he went.

His final game has been played, and now he can rest in peace . . .

God Bless "Pappy", you will be missed.

..... ***Don Aselin, SODA, Executive Director - NY***

Funeral Arrangements:

** {{{ Available at this link on Thursday 8/07/08 }}} **

<http://www.legacy.com/rrstar/Obituaries.asp>

