

editor's note



My family doesn't travel with me that often, but sometimes the destination is so interesting that we make an exception.

Such was the case around 15 years ago when I was invited to attend a Canadian Institute of Steel Construction event in Jasper (up in the Canadian province of Alberta).

Bob Owen, an AISC board member and a gentleman in his own right, was also attending. Bob, the then president of Paxton and Vierling Steel, is an avid pilot and asked if I wanted a "ride." I explained that my whole family was going, but he simply replied that he loved kids and they were all welcome!

Also flying with us was Terry Peshia and his lovely wife, Connie. As we sat down and settled in, Terry pulled out a Chinese checkers set and invited my daughter, Julia, who was around 7 at the time, to play. Terry and Julia had a merry time on the flight, whether playing games or having Terry explain the nuances of aircraft navigation.

When we returned to Chicago, Terry handed the game to my daughter. I thanked him but said it really wasn't necessary. Terry responded that he had only brought the game to play with Julia on the flight.

That was the first time I learned what type of heart Terry had.

Terry, who passed away last month, was always a go-to expert for me. When I had a question about the fabrication business, he was the first person I turned to. And my questions were always very broad; I can remember calling to discuss topics ranging from the type of gasses he purchased to insurance issues to erection procedures. He

was a calm voice on the board who always took a thoughtful and long-range position and was willing to reconsider when there was enough evidence to the contrary.

I have so many great memories of Terry, his wife and his two sons, who are both intimately involved with the fabrication business (if you have ever attended a Future Leaders Ideas Lab, you were sure to meet Ted and John).

Early on, he was a notable holdout who opposed the AISC Fabricator Certification Program. But over time, he grew to realize the value of the program and became one of its staunchest advocates and a leader in the development of the AISC Erector Certification Program.

His fabrication shop, Garbe Iron Works in Aurora, Ill., was not the largest nor the most modern facility. But they worked on a lot of interesting projects, including building a floating casino. Terry always advocated for the future, and his shop tours were incredible. Rather than just routing groups through the space, he actually posted signs explaining what was happening at each station.

He also was a huge supporter of students and donated multiple teaching steel sculptures to nearby universities (see www.aisc.org/steelsculpture). In fact, visitors often noticed a steel sculpture in front of his shop—which he maintained so he always had a sculpture ready to donate.

Terry represented the best of the steel industry, and I'll miss him dearly.


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