

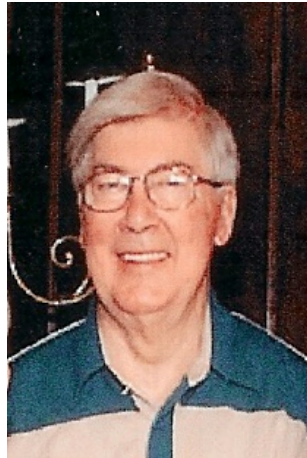


# Rota-Briefs



December 1, 2010 Newsletter

## Passing of Walter H. Speidel



**Walter Speidel**

Walter H. Speidel, a long time member of the Rotary Club of Cohoes, died on Wednesday, November 24, 2010 at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy. Walter joined Rotary in 1969. He was president of the club from July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995. He was also received the coveted Paul Harris Fellow award, the highest award in Rotary in 1997.

The following are a few remembrances from members of our club.

**Bob Van Alstine:**

I am saddened by Walter's passing. Like Bill Dillon and Judge Hanlon, Walter was one of those special friends that my father had for many years. Walter was always a gentleman, and embodiment of the 4 Way Test. Each year at my father would give Walter a gift certificate for dinner at the Century House. Walter would do the same thing for my father on his birthday.

He was a member of a group of Rotarians that meet for fellowship every week before weekly Rotary meetings. My father and I were also part of this group. Any conversations and jokes that he told were always in the best of taste. I am honored to have known Walter and privileged to call him my friend. Walter will truly be missed.

**Jack Farrell:**

Walter was always a straight up kind of guy; you always know where you stood with him. In 1977, Walter sponsored Chet DeLaMater, at the same time that I joined the club. I was sponsored by Jake Robert. Walter was always a perfect gentleman. Walt and Shirley always enjoyed the annual Christmas Party and Installation Banquet. Walter always cared for everybody else. He had a real spirit of camaraderie. When he became club president he really brought the club together. For seven or eight years, he sponsored an annual golf outing for any member of our club at the Van Schaick Island Country Club.

**Linda Tremblay:**

I am deeply saddened at Walter's passing. I have many fond memories of Walt. Being one of the few women in our club for many years, what I remember most about Walt, as with your father, was what a consummate gentleman he was. He was never antagonistic toward me. He

always offered a kind word or a compliment. He was often the gentle voice of reason in a difficult situation. He embodied everything being a Rotarian stands for. I feel honored to have known him, and I will miss him.

**Colin Demers:**

"The four way test could be abbreviated to "What would Walt do? Walt Speidel was the epitome of a gentleman, a professional and a Rotarian. From my first meeting with Walt, I knew he was the type of man I wanted to try to be, a great role model, whether he was standing in the headquarters of the Cohoes Savings Bank, standing on the corner ringing the bell for Salvation Army or standing proud surrounded by the family he loved. Walt will be missed, but his Rotarian spirit of giving is a great legacy for the club"

**Harry McDonald:**

I have been a friend of Walters for many years, and have served with him on many boards commencing with the old Cohoes Hospital Board of Directors. He was most generous with this time, and his knowledge of finances was a valuable asset. The phrase 'a perfect gentleman' describes Walter to a tee.

**Jake Robert:**

Walter Speidel, what a guy, a true gentleman! I've known Walter, a good friend, for over FIFTY years. They don't come better. He's going to be missed! I miss him already.

**Mike Brooks:**

I can only describe him as a "friend" and "gentleman".

**Ann Cargile:**

As Past District Governor of Rotary I remember Walter as a leader, considerate boss when I worked for Cohoes Savings Bank but mostly as a good Rotarian that followed "Service Above Self".

Anne M. Cargile, District Governor for Rotary 2006-2007.

**Bev Signoracci:**

He was such a gentleman and a wealth of history.

**Chuck Ries:**

In May 1987 Walt, myself, Leo Hilton, Dr. Bruce Herold, Harry Robinson, Don Wilson (all Rotarians or former Rotarians) and others booked a 3-day fishing extravaganza at Riverhead Lodge on Carleton Island, Cape Vincent, NY at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in the Thousand Islands. Riverhead Lodge was a classic Victorian summer home built in the 1880's on a point at the very head of Carleton Island overlooking the beautiful St. Lawrence where we were served gourmet meals.

Walt had his trusty video camera and took pictures everywhere (including when fishing) of the entire group. We were split up in several guide boats with modern electronics and fish finders. Each boat had its own guide and they were in continuous radio contact looking for schools of Lake Trout and Coho-Salmon for us to catch; and boy did we catch fish for 2 days, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Walt never stopped filming and when it was his turn to bring in a fish, one of us continued to film the action.

Well, at a future Cohoes Rotary lunch meeting Walt was the program and guess what he showed us? 45-minutes of guys pulling in fish! Those of us who were in the film enjoyed the fun, but other members kept nodding off and looking at their watches. Pete Walsh, a visiting Rotarian from the Delmar Club, stood up at the end and stated facetiously (I think) that that was the worst program he ever sat through. Everyone laughed, including Walt who replied that he had several more hours of tapes and would be glad to continue the program at future meetings. Of course, no one ever took him up on that suggestion.

For years after that meeting when Pete Walsh showed up, guess what we told him was on the program. I wonder where those tapes are today? Anyone have a suggestion for the program for next Wednesday's meeting?

We're going to miss Walt, but he sure did leave us with great memories.

**Rotary Club Officers:**

**Keith Hornbrook** - President

**Marshall Barrett** - Past President

**Robert W. Van Alstine** - Secretary/Editor Club Newsletter

**Michael Brooks** - Treasurer

**Amy Musiker** - Sergeant At Arms

**Dan Stec** - District Governor

**Cohoes Rotary Web Site** - [www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org](http://www.rotaryclubofcohoes.org)